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Curios and Relics

Clothing Accessories

Hat

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Lincoln's "Shocking Hat."

6.15 New York Herald. 1892

There was nothing of the swell about Abraham Lincoln. In the matter of his personal attire he was decidedly careless. It was a matter of supreme indifference to him whether his clothes fitted him or not. He had other things to think about. Thus it often happened that when his hat began to look the worse for wear he neglected to replace it with a new one.

When on his way to Washington to be inaugurated as President of the United States he passed through New York. The almost studied negligence which characterized his apparel excited much mirth and ridicule. But the keenest shafts of ridicule were aimed at his hat, an exceedingly seedy looking "stove-pipe." It was publicly dubbed "that shocking hat." This didn't worry Lincoln a bit, but it pained some of his sensitive friends very much. So they arranged a little scheme to secure an exchange of "tiles" which would give the President a presentable hat.

The dimensions of Lincoln's cranium were secretly but accurately ascertained, and a brand new hat was provided that would exactly fit him. Things were so fixed that when the procession which was escorting Lincoln passed up Broadway the carriage in which he was seated halted just opposite the store of a popular hatter. Out rushed the hatter with the hat which the committee of Lincoln's friends had selected, and begged the precious privilege of exchanging it for the one which Lincoln wore. Without any suspicion that he was the victim of a "put up job" Lincoln good-naturedly complied with the request.

The late William Gibson, one of New York's great curio and relic hunters, secured the "shocking hat" and it figured conspicuously at many fairs and exhibitions for charitable purposes. When Mr. Gibson died, some eight years ago the hat passed to one of his sons, who kept it under a glass globe in his factory. There it was seen last week by F. R. Kaldenberg, of this city. He wrote to his friend, C. F. Gunther, of Chicago, who has a large collection of Lincoln's relics, about it. Mr. Gunther opened up negotiations and purchased for a good round sum the hat, which is intrinsically not worth 5 cents.

The hat is an ordinary old-fashioned "stovepipe" and was made by a hatter at Springfield Ill., named George Hall. It is lined inside with paper in imitation of silk, and on it, in pencil, Lincoln had written his name and address, "A. Lincoln, Springfield, Ill." It is this autograph which adds so immensely to the value of the hat.

LINCOLN'S HAT.

A Headpiece of as Much Individuality
as Its Great Owner.

Special Correspondence of The Republic.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.—Peculiarities of the President in personal habit or apparel are always interesting to the American public, and it has read with relish many stories about Mr. Cleveland's collar and General Grant's cigar. But none of these begin to equal in point and picturesque-ness the pleasing tales that might be told of Abraham Lincoln's hat. The fact is, there are enough of funny incidents reported of Mr. Lincoln's hat to make it "fabled in song and illumined in story." For example, it served as a football on the night of his election to the Presidency, when the ladies at the old homestead testified their glee over his good fortune. The scene would have done credit to the great game that was played last Thanksgiving between Yale and Princeton on Manhattan field. This is the story as told by an eyewitness:

"A few of us ladies went over and helped Mrs. Lincoln prepare a little supper for the friends of Mr. Lincoln, who had been invited in to hear the returns. Every half



Abraham Lincoln.

hour or so we would pass around coffee and cakes. About 1 o'clock in the morning enough had been learned to warrant the belief that the Rail Splitter had been elected. I think it was when we heard the news from New York that the men rushed on Mr. Lincoln and shook his hands, while some of the women actually hugged him, and, I might as well admit it, I kissed him.

"Then someone went into the hall and took from the rack that old silk hat that he wore, and which was as long as a joint of stovepipe, and about as shapely to my mind, and it was thrown up to the ceiling. As it came down someone gave it a kick, and then the women joined in the fun, and we played football with that hat until it was an indistinguishable mass. We were simply beyond control. What a ridiculous scene it would have been to one looking in without knowing what prompted it.

"It was all the more so, so far as I was concerned, for originally I had been a Seward woman. While the convention was in session in Chicago we were waiting to hear the news. It had been arranged, in case Lincoln received the nomination, to fire a cannon. My nearest neighbor was a Mrs. Dubois, with whom I had several friendly spats during the campaign preceding the nomination. I heard the cannon shot, and the next moment I saw Mrs. Dubois running across the street. She had been making a shirt for her husband, who was about the size of the late Judge David Davis, so you may have some idea of the size of the garment she was waving. She rushed into the house and flaunted it in my face. It made me mad, and I sat down and began crying. The good woman put her arms around me, begged my pardon and kissed me, and from that time we were Lincoln women. She took part in the football match."

As if not content with his 6 feet 4 or 5 inches of gaunt stature, Lincoln had his now historic hat made fully a foot high, with a brim almost as big as a Southern sombrero. It seemed to have been a combination of all styles then in existence, and in this respect it reflected his own early experience in having been a storekeeper, soldier, surveyor, and finally a solicitor. It was a veritable "joint of stovepipe," and its remarkable and romantic brim made it alike serviceable in rain or shine. It might have been called with propriety a "plug ugly," after the name of the mob in Baltimore that threatened him in his journey to the national capital.

During Lincoln's great debate with Douglas, the hat fairly loomed into space. The smallness of the latter's stature caused him to be nicknamed "The Little Giant," and when Lincoln stood beside him with his hat on, the difference between the two seemed all but immeasurable. Curiously enough, when Mr. Lincoln came to be inaugurated at Washington, and took off his hat on the stand preparatory to making his inaugural address, Douglas held the high hat so that no careless person might put his foot in it.

Representative Springer, who hails from Lincoln's old home, knew the hat well, and in speaking of it recently said: "Mr. Lincoln's high hat was the most indispensable thing of his whole outfit. In it he carried all his valuable papers. In fact, it was a sort of filerack. Here were all the briefs of his various law cases. Curiously enough he carried the accounts in his head, and that is why he lost so much money. Had he reversed the process and kept his accounts in his hat and the cases in his head, he would have been better off. His hat served for his satchel on a journey, and all that was needed besides this were his saddle-bags and his horse. It was large and capacious, and a great many documents and data could be crowded into it without seriously discommoding the wearer."

But Mr. Lincoln had still a better use for his valuable tile, which seems to have had more virtues than those rehearsed in the nursery tales of "Jack and the Bean Stalk." When he was Postmaster at New Salem his hat became a most important part of his office equipment. As soon as the mail was received each day the young Postmaster would put the letters in his hat and take a stroll through the village. The villagers knew that he was a peripatetic post office, and, of course, everybody was anxious to know the contents of the hat, which seemed to promise as much to them as a hat in the hands of a sleight-of-hand performer.

FRANCIS L. CHRISMAN.

J. W. I. GET

A LINCOLN HAT

At the Lincoln museum, where relics of the War President are displayed, there is a broken old fashioned stove-pipe hat; and it is alongside of an old broken-backed chair. The hat was worn by Lincoln and he was sitting in the chair in the office of the *Springfield Journal*, when the news of his nomination for the presidency was received. At the museum they tell this story:

On the day preceding his nomination "Tall Abe" had been playing base ball. He was very fond of the game, and whenever they could get him away from his work, the boys were always glad to have him play; although both sides always wanted him. He could "swat" a ball hard, and his long legs carried him rapidly around the bases. In the game of the afternoon preceding his nomination, he was coming like a streak down the home stretch past the third base with his head down, and he ran head first into the catcher who had the ball and was waiting for him. His stove-pipe hat was knocked clean down over his ears, and it was badly ripped.

Lincoln skillfully stitched the hat that night. The stitches are there yet. When the news of his nomination came into the office of the *Journal*, Lincoln thanked his friends for their attentions, and started to go home. One of his friends there said:

"Mr. Lincoln. The candidate of the new party shall not go about wearing a hat like that."

So they kept Lincoln there until the gentleman went out and bought him a new stove-pipe hat. The editor of the *Journal* kept the chair and the hat; and at last they were sent to the national capital as relics.

LINCOLN'S HAT AS A FOOTBALL

Fun with the Martyr President's
Monumental Headgear.

SAID TO HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE

It Served as a Cabinet for His Papers
and Even as a Valise — It Looked
Nearly a Foot High and Had a Brim
Like a Sombrero — Preserved in a
Museum.

The annual recurrence of Lincoln's birthday invariably brings to light a number of new stories about the martyr President. These are always intensely interesting. I have just run across several good stories about the high silk hat that Lincoln always wore. This important piece of head apparel served the great Kentuckian in as good stead as the Magic Cap did Siegfried, "tiding him through wonderful tasks." In all positions that he filled, whether as soldier, storekeeper, surveyor, solicitor or statesman, the silk tile was alike indispensable. Gen. Grant's cigar came in for a good deal of attention by writers and reviewers, but the hat of "Honest Abe" was a veritable treasure house. It served in turn for carrying surveyor's notes, letters, dispatches, newspaper clippings, lawyers' briefs and State papers of all sorts. It even figured in a hilarious football game on the night of his election to the Presidency, and the scene would have done



HIS HAT WAS HIS FILE RACK.

credit to the best memories of Manhattan Field.

But before passing to an account of the part played by the noble title in the martyr President's career, it may be well to give a description of it.

The hat that Lincoln was accustomed to wear seemed to be a foot high, with a brim almost as big as a Southern sombrero.

In his debates with Douglas the hat fairly loomed into space. The smallness of the

stature of the latter is well known, and when Lincoln stood beside him with his hat on, the appearance they presented was that of a boy and a giant standing together. And curiously enough, when Lincoln came to be inaugurated at Washington, Douglas held the high hat in his own hand, that no careless person might put his foot in it.

The reader can readily imagine the appearance of Lincoln when arrayed in his favorite plug, if a few well-known facts are borne in mind. The President had a gaunt and grotesque frame, and stood six feet four inches in his stocking feet. His strength equaled his length, for he could lift a cask full of beer and drink out of the bung hole. It was such herculean feats as this that made him the hero he was in the eyes of the Clary Grove boys.

The Hon. Robert R. Hitt, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, was the official stenographer in the famous debates already mentioned, and from him I gained the following information regarding this famous title:

"Yes, I remember that Mr. Lincoln's hat was very large. He was a man of large head, and the style at that time was to wear high and full crown silk hats. The one he wore toward the last of his life looks enormous as compared with the hats seen nowadays. When he was making speeches in the campaign of '58 he often had papers—newspaper clippings chiefly—which were caught just behind the lining of the hat and easily taken out."

The hat referred to is preserved in the Oldroyd Museum at Washington; it is that which Mr. Lincoln wore on the night of his assassination. It stands under a big glass case, and suggests that worn by ex-President Harrison's grandfather. I tried it on recently, and I found it very heavy and cumbersome. It fitted me loosely, and was a good 7-14 in size. In addition to the heavy black band around it there was another tiny band with a dainty buckle. This hat is in a remarkable state of preservation, and the maker's name on the lining inside shows it to have been manufactured by J. Y. Davis of Washington, D. C., showing that Mr. Lincoln believed in patronizing home industries.

Mr. Lincoln's hat played a very important part in his career when he was postmaster at New Salem. It was before the days of the railway mail service on steam or street cars. There were no "special delivery" carriers at that time. But Lincoln was equal to the demands of the situation, and became a peripatetic postoffice. As soon as the letters were received each day he would put them in his hat, and stroll through the town. His tall, gaunt form could easily be descried from all quarters, and everybody was more or less concerned in the contents of the hat. Upon being questioned as to what the mail had brought, Lincoln would remove his tile and carefully look over the lot of letters. In this way he not only became acquainted with his neighbors, but his unique and utilitarian hat became almost an object of reverence.

It was, however, on the night of his election to the Presidency that the noble tile served to bring about a football game, which, for genuine excitement and the prominence of the parties engaged, has never been surpassed. The news had just come to the old homestead in Illinois that Lincoln was elected. Here is the story as told by an eye witness:

"A few of us lads went over and helped Mrs. Lincoln prepare a little supper for friends, who had been invited in to hear the returns. Every half hour or so we would pass around coffee and cakes. About 1 o'clock in the morning enough had been learned to warrant the belief that the 'Rail Splitter' had been elected. I think it was when we heard the news from New York. The men rushed on Mr. Lincoln and shook his hands, while the women actually hugged him, and, I might as well admit it, I kissed him. Then some one went into the hall and took from the rack that old silk

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"It was the more so, so far as I was
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 My nearest neighbor was a Mrs. Dubois
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 spats during the campaign. I heard the
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 David Davis, so you may gain some idea of
 the size of the garment she was wearing.
 She rushed into the house and flaunted it in
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 were both Lincoln women. She also took
 part in the football match."

There are a good many stories afloat con-
 cerning the hat of the martyr President
 which are hard to verify at this late day.
 One is to the effect that Lincoln was saved
 from death some months before his assas-
 sination by his trusty tile. It was his wont
 to go horseback riding on pleasant after-
 noons from the White House. In the vicini-
 ty of the Soldiers' Home one day his horse
 was startled by the report of a rifle. Upon
 examining his silk hat, Lincoln discovered
 a bullet mark at the top of the crown.
 Misled by its height, the would-be assassin
 had overshot his mark. It is needless to
 say that horseback riding was discontinued
 after that.

Lincoln once met with a mishap to his
 headgear. It was before the days of "quo-
 rum hats." In order to prevent a quorum
 he leaped from a window and crushed his
 tile beyond recognition. Had Lincoln lived
 and been a member of the Fifty-first Con-
 gress, "Tom" Reed would have had no trou-
 ble in seeing and counting that monumental
 plug.

Judge Springer of Illinois told me that
 Lincoln's hat was the most indispensable
 part of his whole outfit.

"It was, in fact, a sort of file rack," said
 the Judge. "Here were all the briefs of
 his various law cases. Curiously enough,
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 hat served for his satchel on a journey,
 and all that was needed besides this were
 his saddle bags and his horse."

Lincoln used to carry a good many ideas
 under his hat, which he would not always
 express on public occasions. Some of those
 reveal the inner character of the man. I
 learned the other day from the Rev. Robert
 Collyer, pastor of the Unitarian Church,
 New York, that Lincoln was practically a
 Unitarian, and was very fond of reading
 Channing's and Parker's works. This ac-
 counts for his broad and liberal views,
 optimistic to the last degree.

Two incidents in his career were strangely
 prophetic. In a speech delivered in Phila-
 delphia in 1861 on Washington's Birthday,
 from notes carried as usual in his silk
 tile, he pronounced this striking passage:
 "But if this country cannot be saved with-
 out giving up the principle that 'all men
 are created equal,' I would rather be assas-
 sinated than surrender it."

Again, in 1860, he was engaged on a case
 involving the ownership of some land on
 the Chicago River. During the preceding
 Autumn he had been defeated by Douglas
 in the canvass for the United States Senate.
 In order to have a little quiet fun at his
 expense, the opposing attorney, Mr. Arnold,
 took occasion to remark:

"There have been great changes in this
 suit since its commencement. Everything
 is possible in this life. For example, it is
 within the range of possibility that my
 learned friend, Abraham Lincoln, may some
 time occupy the Presidential chair."

The remarks caused a good deal of fun
 at Lincoln's expense, and as he walked
 away from court that evening he little
 dreamed that he was one day to occupy a



THE LITTLE GIANT HELD THE BIG
 GIANT'S HAT.

pinnacle in the nation's history as high as
 that of George Washington.

Lincoln's hat was only typical of his
 character. He was generous and broad in
 all things. It is a well-known fact that he
 would invariably throw up his brief when
 he had a bad case. He would only under-
 take suits that he believed to aim at jus-
 tice. What he would have carried in his
 trusty tile in the way of the reconstruction
 and regeneration of the South, had he lived,
 can only be conjectured. But it is safe to
 surmise that the hat would have contained
 many a good scheme for the welfare of
 FRANCIS LEON CHRISMAN.

Football with Lincoln's Hat.

The favorite hat worn by Abraham
 Lincoln was a tall "stovepipe." It has
 been described as a foot high, with a brim
 almost as wide as a Southern sombrero.
 Many anecdotes are connected with that
 famous tall hat. In it Mr. Lincoln car-
 ried many valuable papers, the briefs of
 his law cases, and other documents.

On the night of Mr. Lincoln's election
 to the presidency several ladies who had
 gathered at the old homestead at Spring-
 field testified their glee by using the hat
 as a football. 1857

A few of us went over to assist Mrs.
 Lincoln about the supper which was to
 be given some gentlemen who had come
 in to hear the returns. It was after mid-

night before enough had been learned to
 warrant the belief that our candidate had
 been elected. We went nearly wild with
 joy, and congratulated Mr. Lincoln most
 heartily.

Someone saw the famous "stovepipe"
 in the hall, and, seizing it, threw it up to
 the ceiling. Another caught it, and then
 it went the rounds till it fell to the floor,
 when one gave it a kick, and then an-
 other, and another gave the hat a send-
 off, until it was so battered that it had
 lost all resemblance to its original shape.
 Mr. Lincoln looked on and smiled good-
 naturedly at the childish performance.—
 Philadelphia Record. 1857

Lincoln's Hat

SIR: Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday we observe today, possessed the beautiful genius of friendship. His spirit was a friendly, curious and sociable one. Once, while on a visit to a soldiers' hospital he encountered a soldier from Pennsylvania, who stood nearly seven feet high. Lincoln was six feet four inches in height but he had to look up to the tall soldier. Lincoln was interested at once, regarded the man a while, smiled, and asked, "Partner, how do you know when your feet get cold?" Loving all sorts and conditions of people, he loved to have them near him. Often, when he would meet a group of his friends, he would say, "Well, here I am! Aren't you glad to see me?" You can be sure that they were exceedingly glad to see him; for to meet Abraham Lincoln was an outstanding event in a person's life, especially when he was in humorous mood, which frequently was the case. He was as eager, honest, and joyous as a child. In fact, his democratic simplicity put persons at ease with him. He wore a high hat (which gave him a fantastically tall appearance) but there was nothing "high-hat" in his nature.

HENRY M. EAST, Boyertown

Wonderful Hats.

On one occasion Lincoln was presented with two fine hats, each by a different hatmaker, neither knowing that the other had made such a contribution. In the course of events they called upon the president, and it so happened that both called at the same time. When both found themselves in the presence of the executive they asked how he had liked the hats they had sent him, and, taking advantage of the opportunity of securing a statement of superiority of one or the other make, the president was asked to state his preference. To many men such a question would be very embarrassing, but to Lincoln not at all. He took the hat, one in each hand, and then replied gravely, but with a mischievous twinkle in his keen eyes:

"Gentlemen, your hats do mutually surpass each other!"

1911

A FRIEND OF LINCOLN.

2, 12, 1910
Octogenarian Recalls Days of Stirring Political History.

New York correspondence of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Oscar C. Stafford, of Minneapolis, more than 80 years of age, hale and hearty, is a guest at the Holland house. The octogenarian used to be a neighbor of Abraham Lincoln's in Springfield, Ill., and knew him well, as he did Stephen A. Douglas and others of that day. Mr. Stafford dates from as far back as 1829, but he says he is younger than his son, Lac, who is approaching 60. He made several trips to Europe, and he left today for Havana for a little tour before going to Florida to pass the remainder of the winter.

"I guess I date back as far as almost anybody alive that ever lived in Springfield," said Mr. Stafford. "I was born on a farm, of course, but when I was growing up I went into Springfield to learn a trade. I went into business for myself in 1855 with a hardware store, but removed to Decatur in 1857. My father was a great friend of Mr. Lincoln, though they differed in politics. As I recall Mr. Lincoln he was a fac simile almost of Senator Shelby M. Cullom, who was a young man then. The likeness between the two was much commented on. He never wore whiskers until he was elected president, and I never saw him wearing a stovepipe hat until he was nominated for the presidency. I knew him before he was married, and I knew his wife and all her people. Stephen A. Douglas was a short, heavy set man, with very nice manners. But he used to drink like a fish. I have been in his office when he was running for congress. He would always insist upon everybody drinking with him, and he never would drink anything but straight brandy.

THERE is another story concerning Abraham Lincoln's shocking hat, for which the New York Herald is responsible: When on his way to Washington to be inaugurated as President of the United States he passed through New York. The almost studied negligence which characterized his apparel excited much mirth and ridicule. But the keenest shafts of ridicule were aimed at his hat, an exceedingly seedy looking "stovepipe." It was publicly dubbed "that shocking hat." This didn't worry Lincoln a bit, but it pained some of his sensitive friends very much. So they arranged a little scheme to secure an exchange of "tiles" which would give the President a presentable hat.

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The Sunday School Advocate
February 12, 1912.

Lincoln's Hat

"I wish," shouted Thornton Gamos, as he came running into the sitting room, where his mother was reading the daily paper, "yes, I wish that I had a real good story to tell on Lincoln's Day at school."

"So you are to observe Lincoln's Day, this year, are you?" observed Mrs. Gamos, as she laid aside her paper.

"Yes," he answered, "and I don't want to back out and not have any part in the exercises, especially when Miss Pores has been so kind as to ask me for something."

"That's right, my son," replied the mother, with an approving smile.

"Can't you think of some anecdote that I can tell, mother?" asked Thornton, as he helped himself to a seat.

"How would the story of Lincoln's hat do?" asked Mrs. Gamos.

"What is it, mother? Tell me, please."

"Why," began the mother, "when Lincoln was on his way to Washington, he passed through New York, and—"

"Do you mean," interrupted the boy, "when he was on his way to be inaugurated as President of the United States?"

"Yes," she answered; "but, to go on with my story, Lincoln wore at the time a very rusty looking stovepipe hat. People called it 'that shocking hat.'"

"Was it a tall, black hat, such as Mr. Craig wears, mother?"

"I presume so, Thornton," she replied, "and Lincoln's friends were more sensitive about his apparel than he was himself, and so they planned a nice little scheme in order to exchange hats with him.

"Some one found out the size of his hat and secretly provided a new one for him. When the procession passed up Broadway the carriage which contained Lincoln stopped directly in front of a hat store. The hatter rushed out with a nice tall silk hat in his hand and begged Lincoln to exchange hats with him, as he wished to keep his for a memento of the great event. Lincoln, not suspecting any joke, granted the wish of the hatter, and the procession passed on."

"Ha! ha!" laughed Thornton. "I'll tell that story all right. None of the rest can beat it."

"Wait a moment, my dear," said the mother. "Don't you want to know what became of the hat?"

"Yes, I do, mother," he replied. "I thought that was the whole of it."

"The hat," continued Mrs. Gamos, "was on exhibition at many fairs, until finally it came into the possession of a relic hunter, who thought so much of his rare curio that he placed it under a glass globe in his place of business."

"Can you describe the hat itself, mother?" asked Thornton, who seemed interested enough to collect all the facts possible about the old hat.

"Only," explained the mother, "that it was one of those old-style 'stovepipes,' and was lined with imitation silk. Lincoln, by the way, had written his name upon it."

"I should think," remarked the boy, "that his autograph in the hat would make it the more valuable."

"Indeed, it does," said his mother.

"I know my story will pass all right," Thornton said.—*Alice May Douglass.*

LINCOLN'S LOST HAT.

When Recovered It Told a Story of Attempted Assassination.

It is probable, says Mr. Francis F. Browne in his book, "The Everyday Life of Abraham Lincoln," that the attempts upon the life of President Lincoln were more numerous than is generally known. An incident of a very thrilling character, which might easily have become a shocking tragedy, is told by Mr. John W. Nichols, who from the summer of 1862 until 1865 was one of the president's bodyguard.

One night about the middle of August, 1864, I was doing sentinel duty at the large entrance gate to the grounds of the Soldiers' home, near Washington, where Mr. Lincoln spent a good deal of time in summer. About 11 o'clock I heard a rifle shot in the direction of the city, and shortly afterward I heard approaching hoof beats. In two or three minutes a horse came dashing up, and I recognized the belated president. The horse he rode was very spirited, and was Mr. Lincoln's favorite.

As horse and rider approached the gate I noticed that the president was bareheaded. As soon as I had helped him to stop his frightened horse the president said to me: "He came near getting away with me, didn't he? He got the bit in his teeth before I could draw the rein." I then asked him where his hat was, and he replied that some one had fired off a gun down at the foot of the hill, that the horse had become scared and that his hat had been blown off. I led the animal to the cottage where the president stayed, and Mr. Lincoln dismounted and entered.

Thinking the affair rather strange, I started off with a corporal to investigate. When we reached the place whence the sound of the shot had come—a point where the driveway crosses the main road—we found the president's hat. It was a plain silk hat, and upon examination we discovered a bullet hole through the crown. We searched the locality thoroughly, but without avail. The next day I gave Mr. Lincoln his hat and called his attention to the bullet hole. He made some humorous remark to the effect that it was made by some foolish marksman and was not intended for him, but added that he wished me to say nothing about the matter. We all felt confident that it was an attempt to kill the president, and after that he never rode alone.

LINCOLN'S HAT.

An Interesting Souvenir on Exhibition in Washington.

G.A.R. visitors and others passing along the downtown section of 9th Street have been attracted to a shop window in which is displayed an interesting relic of Abraham Lincoln. It is the beaver hat which he purchased whilst he was a member of the 30th Congress, 1847-49, a period in his life of which very little of a personal nature has been recorded. During his short residence of two years in Washington he boarded in company with seven other Congressmen at the house of Mrs. Spriggs, on the east side of 1st Street, between East Capitol and A Streets, on the square now occupied by the Congressional Library.

This hat has a unique history; it is what is called large size seven. The band measures $32\frac{1}{4}$ inches; it was made to measure by a man named Anthony, who worked for William B. Todd, Washington's foremost hatter at that period. Todd's place of business in what was then known as the Concert Hall Building, on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, between 6th and 7th Streets. Todd numbered among his customers Daniel Webster, Sam Houston, Jeff Davis, John A. Dix, Reverdy Johnson, Stephen A. Douglas and the man of then undreamed-of greatness, Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. Lincoln, who as his law partner, Mr. Herndon, said: "Cared so little about clothes that sometimes he did not put all of them on," wore his hat "on and off" for 18 years.

It is a fact well known to collectors of Lincoln mementos that most of the articles of wearing apparel belonging to the martyred President were given away by Mrs. Lincoln to servants in the White House, and "thereby hangs the tale." The hat in question fell to the lot of an old negress from Mrs. Lincoln's native State of Kentucky. The old darky treasured this relic of "Massa Lincoln" and left it as a precious heritage to her grandson, a student at Howard University in this city. This young man was graduated from the above institution in the latter part of the 60's. Wanting to look his best on that occasion, and fearing ridicule if he wore a hat of such an old-fashioned block, he took Lincoln's hat to a local hatter to have it remodeled; the hat then more than 40 years old was found to be too much worn to stand making over, so the hatter offered the young negro a new and up-to-date one in exchange for it. Vanity got the best of the young graduate, and the exchange was made. The present owner makes it a hobby to collect the old hats of famous men, and his collection includes hats worn by Secretary Boutwell, President Cleveland, Senator Sawyer, Father Barrotti and others. He also has one of the first top hats ever made; it is 118 years old, having been made in England in 1797.—Josephine A. Braendle, 1636 19th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

Nat. Tribune, Dec. 9, 1915.

HAT CASE once owned by Lincoln

USED BY LINCOLN.

In one of the shop-windows of Mullen and Bluett, Broadway and Sixth, is displayed the original leather hat box used by Abraham Lincoln. The hat case is made of cowhide and is nearly ten inches high. Lincoln took his high hat from this case on the night of April 14, 1865, when he was shot by J. Wilkes Booth, at Ford's Theater, Washington, D. C.

The hat case is one of the few of Lincoln's personal belongings in the possession of private citizens. It is owned by Lieut. G. E. Van Guysling of Los Angeles.

HAT AND UMBRELLA of Lincoln



THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN will be honored next Wednesday by all America and most of the civilized world on the 121st anniversary of his birth. In the picture above, made at the Chicago Historical Society museum, Miss Virginia Snow is seated in Lincoln's carriage and holds one of his hats and a big umbrella under which he sheltered himself.

Evening American photo

1930

YOUNG MEN BUY THE SILK HAT, BUT DON'T LEARN TO MAKE IT

Only Forty Builders of This Mark of Aristocracy Remain and They Are All Past 70—Long Apprenticeship Necessary Deters Youths Seeking Trade.

OF the forty silk hatters in America today the majority are more than 70 years of age. Much as these men like life and their work, they are destined to take a rest from both before very long, and there are no young high-hatters to take their places. In all the world there are no young hands that can make silk hats, and there is no machinery either. For the aristocrat among men's head coverings has remained entirely untouched by the machine age; and that, as any old hatter will explain, is why the picturesque topper is so much more comfortable than it looks.

What will grandly dressed men wear on their heads to weddings and funerals, when they visit the opera in swallow-tail coats with their wives, or go to church in cutaways on Easter Sunday, after the old hatters stop working? That is what manufacturers are worrying over. But the octogenarian silk hatters are not worrying about anything. If they live to be 100 these men's jobs are secure, so long as they can manipulate white muslin and shellac and silk plush into forms that fit men's heads and

these heads' ideas of distinguished dress.

Old New York hatters explain that the reason they have been left in happy possession of this unique situation is because the five or seven years' apprenticeship training a pair of hands to make a silk hat lost its lure about fifty years ago.

YOUNG MEN WEARING THEM.

Although no young men are learning to make them, an unprecedented number of young men are buying top hats this year and wearing them with bared foreheads at a tilt. Young fellows pay only \$18 for theirs, while the fathers pay \$25, the only difference in the hat being an extra jaunty curve in the youthful brim and a slight deviation in the bell-shaped crown. Three times as many silk hats are selling in New York this fall as were bought ten years ago.

But all the figures these men can assemble represent only a small percentage of those on the books before the war, and before golf, motor cars, commuting between city and suburb, and the modern state of the theater began to exercise their influence on men's clothes.

"I remember very well when it was

nothing unusual for us to have twenty of the city's most prominent men sitting in our shop before 10 o'clock in the morning waiting to have their silk hats ironed before they went on to Wall street," said the manager of a Fifth avenue hat shop. "Life moved at a more leisurely pace in those days. Men would discuss current affairs with one another while their hats were being ironed."

The spirited horses behind which these men rode down Fifth avenue on their way to work must have supplied much of the inspiration that impelled them to dress with so much care. When motor cars came in top-pers went out, soft hats being considered more suitable for the relaxed pose against upholstery behind a chauffeur. Golf was another influence that banished glossy tiles in the morning. When going to business became a mere detour on the way to the golf links, the silk hat was left on its shelf, waiting to be taken out on Sunday. Then there were the frequent crops of new millionaires who never had worn and never would wear a top hat. After a while even the men who made and sold silk hats began feeling conspicuous going to work in them, and they, too, had to submit to standardization.

SOME FAMOUS CONFORMS.

Outlines of famous heads—"conforms," the hat shops call them—are kept year after year in files above floors of Fifth avenue hat shops. The brown Windsor chair in which President Lincoln sat to have his high hats fitted is a treasured antique that was removed not long ago to a private home in New York. A

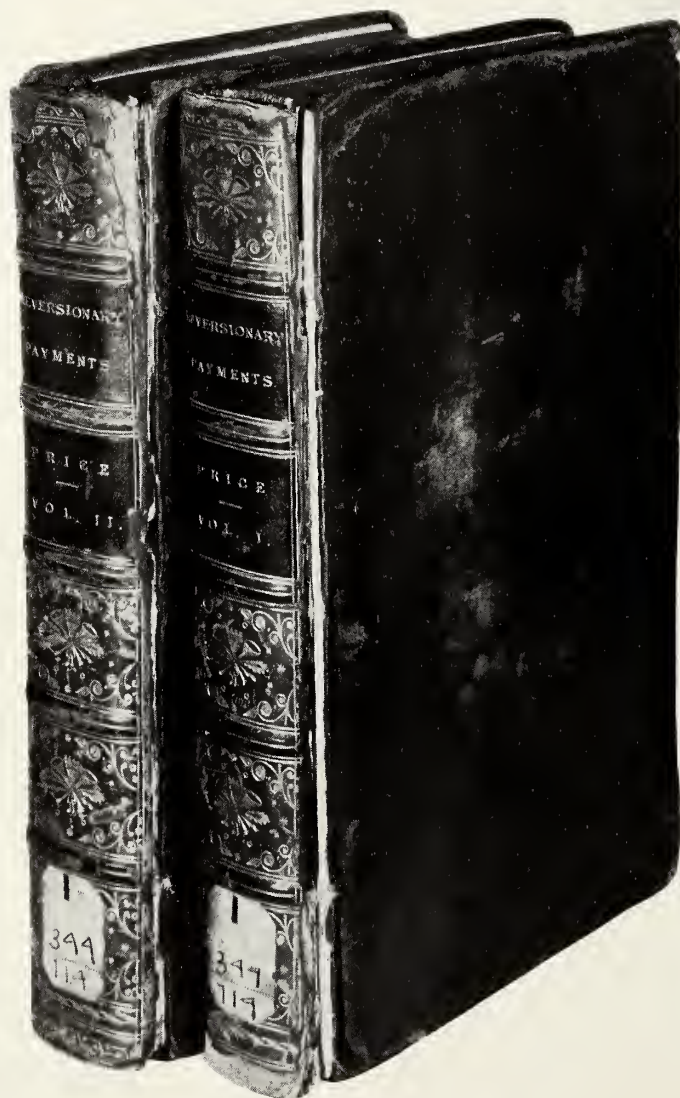
more modern chair serves such men as J. Pierpont Morgan and John D. Rockefeller, whose square-cut ~~deities~~ are made on the same forms season after season without regard to prevailing styles.

The Abraham Lincoln tile was among the last of the older type of high hats. It was made of fine beaver fur, clipped close and dyed black. For three centuries that had been the world's thoroughbred among hats. It was worn originally by the higher classes in Great Britain, so that the others would have no difficulty in recognizing their betters at a distance. And it continued to be worn by such New World kinsmen as the original of Rollin Kirby's Puritanic symbol of prohibition. Seventy years ago beaver fur became so expensive that manufacturers were compelled to find a substitute. The silk hat as we know it today was the result.

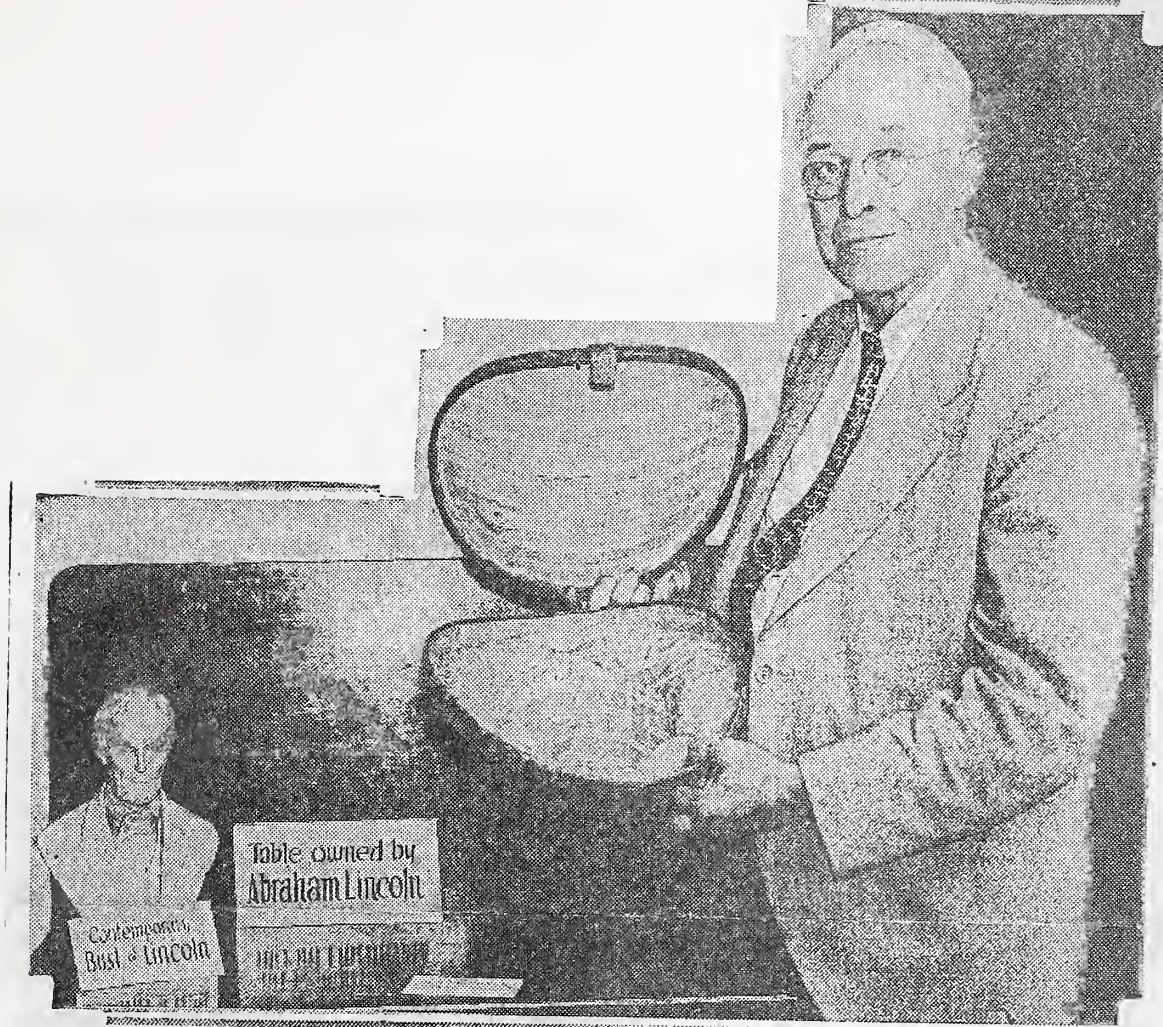
*Bookplate of Earl Granville
from whose library the old
books came*



EARL GRANVILLE KG



REVISIONARY PAYMENTS
by
Richard Price, D.D., F.R.S.
*The oldest accepted Life
Insurance Authority*



RELICS AT THE FAIR—Bottom picture shows John W. Young, art dealer, with Abraham Lincoln's hat box and table. These relics, with the portrait are on display at the Horticultural Building at the fair. At right is a reproduction of the gift inscription, still legible on the back of the canvas.

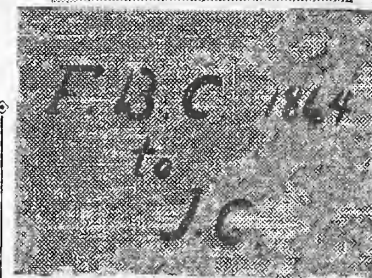
ADD TO LINCOLN RELICS AT FAIR

Gerald Egan 7-31-33

Sixty-nine years ago, when Abraham Lincoln was President, a celebrated painter and author, F. B. Carpenter, was a guest at the White House. And there were two results. One was a book about Lincoln—a book you probably have read. The other was a pair of extraordinary oil portraits of Lincoln and his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln.

Today those two paintings are on view in Horticultural Hall, A Century of Progress Exposition, where increasing crowds are gathering to see them.

The exhibit also includes an old brown leather hat box. The story about this is that Lincoln on the night of his election was so man-handled by his friends that his silk hat was smashed. So the firm of Calvert & Barstow sent him a new one—in the leather box. Later on Mrs. Lincoln gave it to a drayman, High Gallagher, who wore it once a year—on St. Patrick's Day.



“As a public official

I am bound to have what Jefferson called a decent respect for the opinions of mankind,—and yet I can’t help noting that when you put a high hat on an ordinary man, it makes him look a heap more ordinary.”

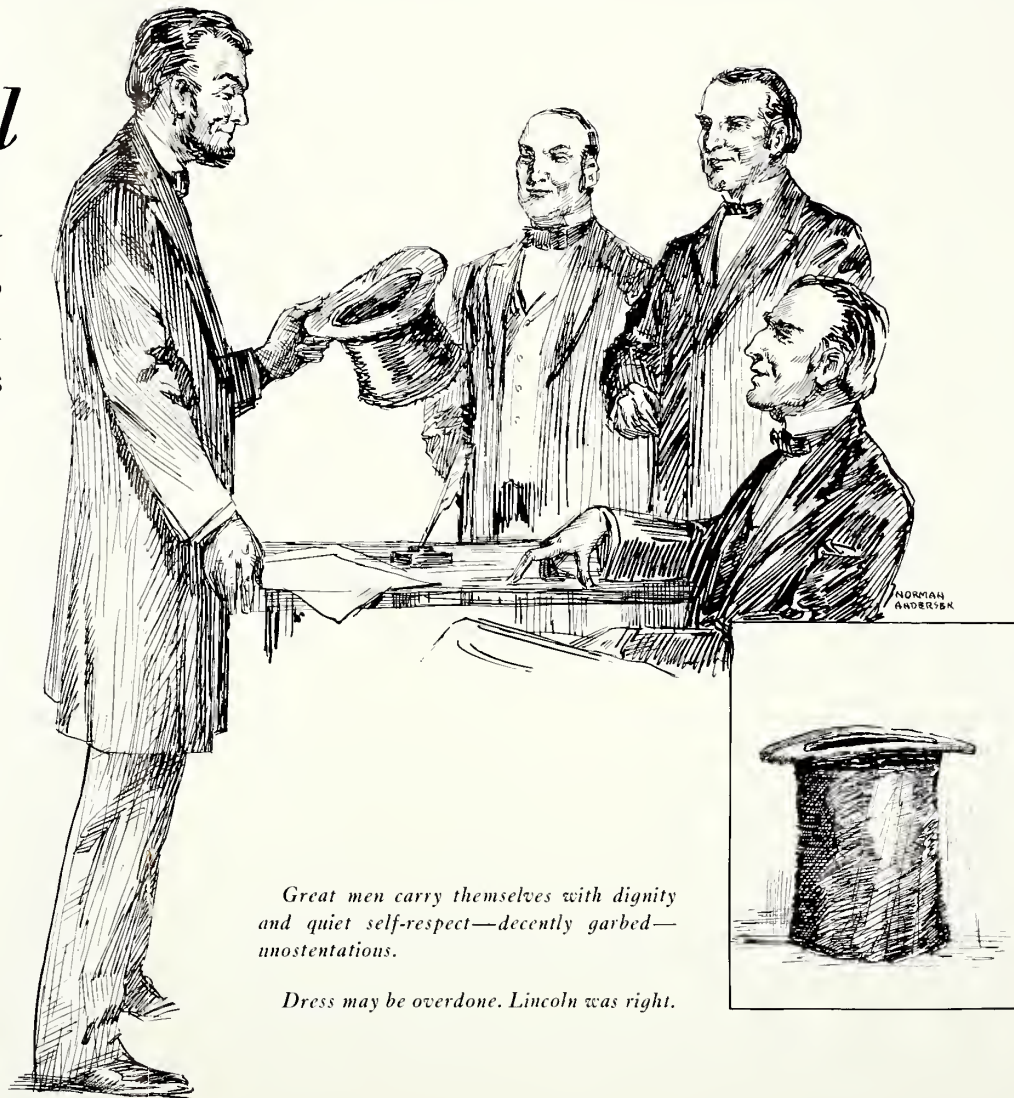
—A. LINCOLN

THIS may not be the age of the High Hat, considered as a *physical* attribute, but the high-hat attitude of mind and manner seems irrepressible.

★ Lincoln sensed it instinctively, and in his honest heart despised it.

However, if high hats, iron derbies, or what have you, are the order of the day, we too, like Lincoln, must conform.

But not to the degree of affectation or ostentation.

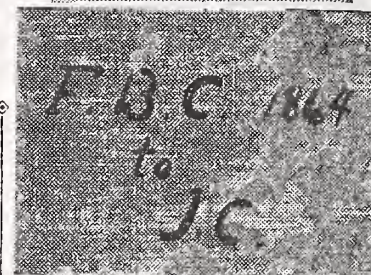


Great men carry themselves with dignity and quiet self-respect—decently garbed—unostentations.

Dress may be overdone. Lincoln was right.



RELICS AT THE FAIR—Bottom picture shows John W. Young, art dealer, with Abraham Lincoln's hat box and table. These relics, with the portrait are on display at the Horticultural Building at the fair. At right is a reproduction of the gift inscription, still legible on the back of the canvas.



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Wedding Hat for Abraham Lincoln Made by Father of Henry P. Love

By Lucy Lenora Andrews

Frederick Love, Sr., father of Henry Pierce Love, now a resident of Redmond, made Abraham Lincoln's wedding hat. Love, who was a hatter, was a close friend of the Lincoln family.

The Love family lived in Indiana, Henry Pierce Love being born in Marion, April 14, 1854. When the senior Love operated a hotel in Marion, the Lincoln family were frequent visitors there.

In the early part of 1861, just before Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as president, the Love family visited the Lincolns at Springfield. Lincoln presented Frederick Love a valise, of the best kind used in that day.

Some 20 years ago, the Oregon Journal carried a story regarding the valise, which was given H. P. Love by his father. Soon after the article appeared, the old grip was stolen mysteriously from the Love home and never seen again.

Old Valise Described

The article said: "H. P. Love, of Council Crest, treasures among his family keepsakes an old and battered grip that was presented to his father, Frederick Love, by Abraham Lincoln. The accompanying cut shows the valise that has been jealously guarded by the Love family since it was given to Frederick Love at Springfield in 1861. Battered and old, it is no less valuable in the eyes of the owner than when it was new and as handsome an article of its kind in use. Mr. Love's father was a hotel keeper of Marion, Indiana, and was a personal friend of Mr. Lincoln. When the former was visiting in Springfield, Mr. Lincoln took occasion to present his friend with this grip as an evidence of his esteem and regard. It was given to H. P. Love by his father in 1868."

H. P. Love, father of Mrs. George F. Webb, wife of George F. Webb, of the Western Resources, Inc., now resides at the Webb home in Redmond.

For years Love was in the railroad business. As a lad of about 18 years, he was news agent on the Pennsylvania railroad's train into Chicago at the time of the disastrous Chicago fire, which wrought havoc with most of the city.

Small Cow Bells Sold

Following the fire, minute cow bells were made in Chicago and sold at 50 cents each as souvenirs. News agents on trains sold them to travelers, Love says, enough being disposed of to make more than a thousand ordinary cow bells. The bells, manufactured as a money-making scheme, were to represent the bell worn by the cow which indirectly started the huge Chicago fire.

Later Love moved to Nebraska, and with a cousin left Nebraska City in 1873 with the last wagon train starting across the prairie. This train of 21 wagons and 25 men was to haul provisions to South Dakota.

When the train was well on its way, Love and his companion deserted it and started home afoot, arriving after two weeks.

The 23 other men, who went on toward South Dakota, were attacked and killed by Indians, who stole the wagons, teams and provisions. News of the disaster reached Nebraska City several days before the two deserters reached home, and they had been given up as dead, as news stated all with the train were slaughtered. When the two young men walked into their homes, they were greeted with astonishment.

Goes Back to Railroad

Love, who then went back to railroading, was with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy for 30 years, and recalls many incidents which happened aboard trains.

Once a woman, travelling with a small dog, did not want the pet to be put in the baggage car, but held it in her lap, and each time the conductor came through the coach, she would throw a shawl or something of that sort over the dog. The conductor knew the dog was being hidden, and next time he came through the train, he made a noise like a bark. The little dog gave a lunge, almost jumping out of the seat, much to the woman's humiliation.

At another time, Love was on a new run, although he had been a passenger conductor for years. The train approached a station where passengers changed cars. Two women who were supposed to change in order to reach their destination failed to get off when the conductor announced the change. One woman

said, "We don't change cars here—he's a new conductor and doesn't know." Later the women discovered their error and were obliged to get off at the next station and hire a conveyance to take them back to the town where they were to get their train. Love reminded them of their remark about his being a new conductor, when they made a great fuss upon discovering their error.

Lived in Lincoln

Love was in Lincoln, Nebraska, when William Jennings Bryan first hung out his shingle as an attorney, and he recalls Bryan's going to Nebraska legislature after defeating John M. Thurston.

Love's family on his mother's side were Quakers who came to Pennsylvania long ago. Their homestead was 160 acres of land afterward in the heart of Philadelphia. A 99-year lease was given by the family when Philadelphia was young. This expired some 50 years ago, but nothing has ever been realized from the old transaction made 150 years ago.

H. P. Love came to Oregon with his family in 1908, making Portland his home. One of his sons, George E. Love, was a aviator during the World war, and is known in Redmond, as he was state commander of the American Legion and has paid official visits to this section. William Jennings Love, another son, was in the navy during the war.



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

LINCOLN'S CLOTHING AND DESK DISPLAYED.

Miss Genevieve Murray showing cane, glove, hat, woolen shawl, and desk that will be shown at Chicago Historical society museum on Emancipator's 125th birthday tomorrow.

Candid Shots

Lincoln's Little Round Felt "Train Hat" Is a Curiosity Here

By PAUL JONES

IN order to put ourself in the proper frame of mind for Lincoln's Birthday, we made a pilgrimage to the Pennsylvania Historical Society, where they keep on display a few relics of Old Abe.

They are mostly pieces of furniture from the Springfield house where he lived when he was nominated and elected to the Presidency. Viewed simply as examples of the cabinetmaker's art, the side chairs, the center table and the extra long sofa are little less than calamities, almost willfully ugly and awkward.

The near neighborhood of half a dozen noble pieces from the house Washington occupied when he lived in Philadelphia only underlines the dreadful cheapness of what Mrs. Lincoln must have selected for their home. It was not her fault. The era was an era of bad taste, and then as now, we suppose, you had to take what you could get. Anybody proposing to return to 18th century elegance—that stuff up in the attic—would have drawn a horse laugh.

Of course, we did not walk to 13th and Locust solely to sneer at the Emancipator's parlor furniture. There is one bentwood easy chair which Abe is supposed to have built himself, with a split cane seat and a fusty old pillow. He was no Chippendale, but it is easy to imagine his lanky form sprawled there, as he brooded over the perplexing events of 1860.

You can also see the sparse law library of Lincoln & Herndon, eight or ten calfbound volumes on one shelf of a bookcase. On another shelf is the plaster cast of Lincoln's hands, with the fingers gripped around a smooth piece of wood. The sculptor who took this impression reported that Abe himself went out and cut a piece from the family broom (what did Mary L. have to say to this?),

whittling the ends with care, because he wanted everything to look nice.

But it is the hat on the bottom shelf to which we return again and again. It is a small, round, gray felt, and the museum card says it is the hat which Lincoln wore from Harrisburg to Washington in February, 1861.

We never saw a picture of Lincoln in this hat, nor in any other hat, except the black stovepipe that made him appear eight feet high. It doesn't look like a hat Abe would buy for himself. For one thing, it is too small, and for another, he must have looked a sight with that little thing perched on top of his craggy head and bushy black hair.

The clue, of course, is in the date mentioned. Making his way to Washington for the inauguration, Lincoln veered and tacked across the country, presenting himself before City Councils and State Legislatures in the North and strengthening his personal contacts for the struggle ahead.

Disguise, Maybe?

At Harrisburg, he had his special train waiting to continue the trip after he exchanged addresses with Governor Curtin. But word came of a plot to assassinate him in Baltimore, and with Lamon and Allan Pinkerton, he slipped out and took the regular express to the capital. If this is the hat he wore on that unexpected night journey, it may have been borrowed, as part of a hasty disguise. We wish somebody had taken his picture. It would be an interesting addition to our Lincolniana.

Some better informed person will possibly write in to tell us either that this hat is just an ordinary train-riding hat, such as every one wore 87 years ago, or that it is a well-known hat, which Old Abe wore at breakfast every day of his life. We will be glad to entertain any authentic correction, because it bothers us. We just can't form an image of A. Lincoln in that little round felt hat.





**A BLACK "STOVEPIPE"
AND THE LINCOLN FAM-**

ILY—Above, President Lincoln's hat measured seven and one-eighth inches—one size smaller than Herbert Hoover's. Mr. Lincoln was rarely seen without it at the Capitol or upon his numerous tours of inspection. Right, an interesting study of the Civil War President, his wife and their two children.

Frankly Eagle

2112-50

Louisville, Ky -

1949

110 - West. Belmont St. Zone #2

Dr Louis A. Warren

1225 Maple Ave.

Fort Wayne Ind

Dear Sir:-

The attached clipping is self-explanatory. I thought perhaps you, might be interested regarding the purchase of this hat as Col. Beckner spoke so highly of you, & your keen insight into the value of Lincoln's possessions. Col. Beckner, believes without a doubt this hat is genuine. Any consideration given this will be appreciated

Yours Right,
Hazel P. Lucas -



MRS. LUCAS AND COLONEL BECKNER

By Times Staff Photographer

Battered Topper May Prove Valuable Relic

An ancient hat which may have belonged to Abraham Lincoln is shown to Lincoln scholar Col. Lucien Beckner, 77, by Mrs. Hazel Lucas, 48, owner of the top-piece. Lincoln's name and a date are written under the band. Beckner told Mrs. Lucas it may be "very valuable."

Lincoln's Name Found In Hat Used As Monkeys' Plaything

A battered topper which served as a plaything for a pair of monkeys not long ago now is being guarded with care at 110 W. Chestnut—because it is possible that Abe Lincoln once wore it.

* * *

Mrs. Hazel Lucas, owner of the stovepipe hat, said she picked it up a year ago from some people who were moving south and selling many of their belongings. "I don't even remember their name," she said.

She "threw it around any old way" and even let some pet monkeys she had until recently play with it.

Then on Sunday she noticed under the sweat-band this inscription: "A. Lincoln. October 6, 1864."

Since then it's been "handled like a baby," she declared.

Col. Lucien Beckner, Filson Club member and a student of Lincolniana, examined the hat and declared: "It is difficult to say positively, but there are many evidences that it really belonged to the martyred President."

* * *

He advised Mrs. Lucas to get in touch with collectors of Lincoln relics.

"Anyone might have written that inscription there," Colonel Beckner admitted, "but the style of the hat is right; it probably is the size hat Lincoln wore, and it is covered with beaver, instead of velour, which came later."

May 24, 1957

May 25, 1949

Mr. Richard B. Hill, Secretary
The Wilson Club
175 West Chestnut Street
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Mrs. Hazel I. Lucas
110 West Chestnut Street
Louisville 2, Kentucky

My dear Mrs. Lucas:

It was kind of you to call our attention to the interesting discovery you have made in Louisville, but I fear I cannot be of much help to you with regard to its disposition as we are not in a position here to display curios such as you have. Our limited space will not allow us to acquire items that call for considerable exhibit room. Thank you, nevertheless, for calling the item to our attention, and we are pleased to have the information about it for our files.

Very truly yours,

Sincerely,

Director

LAW:EB

R. Gerald Holmby

Louisville Ky.
June 7. 1957

Mr. R. Gerald M. Murtry

Dear Sir,

I received
your letter of June 7 in
regards to the hat that
I possess. I am sorry
I could not answer
more promptly I have
been ill and was in
St. Joseph's Infirmary.
and this is the first
opportunity I have
had to answer your letter.

10
In regards to the hat
and establishing its
authenticity Cal Lucien
Beckner of the Fulsom
Club said his only
doubt was in the
head size. He later
established that in that
era they did not go by
head size.

I am interested
in disposing of the
hat and have several
offers for it. I wouldn't
know the value of the
hat and will leave

(3)
it to you as to its value.
if you wish to make
an offer for the hat
I will give it every
consideration,

Thanking you
for your letter

Yours Sincerely,
Hazel S. Lucas.

110 N Chestnut St
Louisville (2) Ky.

June 20, 1957

Mrs. Hazel I. Lucas
110 W. Chestnut Street
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Dear Mrs. Lucas:

I was glad to receive your letter of June 7 regarding the stovepipe hat that you possess.

You mentioned the head size of the hat. Does the hat have a head size? I believe from the clipping I read that the hat band bears a signature "A. Lincoln."

Can you give me the history of the hat. When and where did you acquire it? Of course it is well known that Lincoln visited in Louisville early in his career. I think the history of the hat all these years since Lincoln's time will have a great bearing on its authenticity.

You state you are interested in disposing of the hat. I am, likewise, interested in acquiring the hat, if it is authentic and the price you place on it is not prohibitive.

It will be impossible for me to make an offer on an item that I have never seen. Then too, it has been our policy not to evaluate items that are offered for sale. Generally speaking in most transactions the owner sets a price and the prospective buyer either accepts or declines.

I know you have been ill, however, would it be asking too much to send the hat to me for study? It could be sent by registered mail and I would be glad to reimburse you for the postage required to send it. After making a study of the hat, I would return it by registered mail, if we cannot get together on price.

July 29, 1957

Mr. Lucien Beckner
311 West Chestnut St.
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Mr. Beckner:

I am wondering if you could act as an intermediary between the Foundation and Mrs. Hazel I. Lucas of 110 W. Chestnut Street, Louisville, Kentucky, in the negotiation of the sale of Lincoln's hat that is in her possession.

We have in the Foundation some clippings and correspondence dated in 1949 concerning the hat. In fact one of the clippings bears a picture with you and Mrs. Lucas looking at the hat.

In June of this year I wrote Mrs. Lucas a letter inquiring if she would sell the hat. She replied that she would sell it. She evidently is eager to sell from the tone of her letter. However, she has been very ill and writes very few letters.

I am quite eager to purchase for the Foundation the Lincoln hat if it is genuine. It must be of particular interest in that it bears the name "A. Lincoln October 6, 1864." What do you think now of its authenticity?

Could you telephone Mrs. Lucas and tell her that we are reliable parties and suggest that she send us the hat to examine and to determine whether or not we wish to purchase it?

Of course I do not intend to recommend the purchase of the hat at an exorbitant price. We will be willing to pay a fair price if we can be reasonably sure of its genuineness.

Mr. Lucien Beckner

-2-

July 29, 1957

Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
[Signature]

RCM: sh

R. Gerald McMurtry

enc.

P.S. I enclose a photostat of the clipping mentioned above.

TELEPHONES:
RESIDENCE MA - 8828
OFFICE WA - 1666

LUCIEN BECKNER
CONSULTING GEOLOGIST
743 SOUTH FIFTH STREET
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

August 26, 1957

Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Your letter about the Lincoln hat was received, and I promptly visited Mrs. Lucas and inspected the hat again. My neglect of you is caused by my own sickness, and by a change in my office force which has been confusing.

The hat is not in as good condition as it was when I first inspected it, but it is still in good condition and can be restored easily. Mrs. Lucas does not know what she should ask for it. I explained carefully that it had no certainty and, therefore, the great value it would have had does not exist.

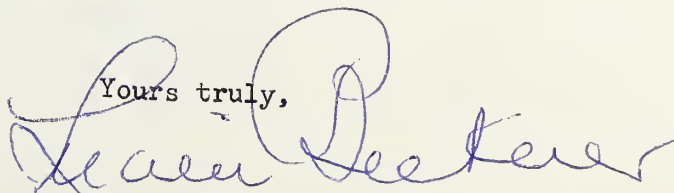
It is made of beaver which dates it; and was bought in a bunch of stuff, furniture, in this city about twelve years ago. It has in it that it was made in London, but was purchased at 4810 Cottage Grove, Chicago, Illinois. Possibly an old Chicago directory would date the purchase and aid in assigning it to President Lincoln. It was made by Granville Hatters, London, England. Its inside measurements are $6\frac{1}{4}$ by $8\frac{1}{4}$. It is six inches tall, and the rim is $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide.

If your research gives you reason to believe the hat is genuine, you may offer her what you will, and I think she will take it as she despairs of disposing of it at present. Several parties have looked at it, but the uncertainty of it has deterred them from purchasing.

If I can serve further, let me know.

With my highest regards, I am

Yours truly,



Lucien Beckner

LB:mlg

September 3, 1957

Col. Lucien Beckner
743 South Fifth Street
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Col. Beckner:

I want to thank you for your letter of August 26, 1957 regarding the so-called Lincoln hat in the possession of Mrs. Lucas.

After carefully reading your letter I have lost interest in the relic. I have just visited the Smithsonian Institution and have seen Lincoln's hat on exhibit. The rim of the original is more than 1 3/8 inches wide and the height is considerably more than 6 inches tall.

Perhaps Mrs. Lucas has a scale model of the stove-pipe hat or a miniature model.

I think the next time I am in Louisville I will call at the home of Mrs. Lucas and see the hat. However, I have decided not to carry on any more negotiations at the present time.

Again I want to thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

ROM:sh

R. Gerald McMurtry

LUCIEN BECKNER
CONSULTING GEOLOGIST
311 WEST CHESTNUT STREET
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

May 19, 1958

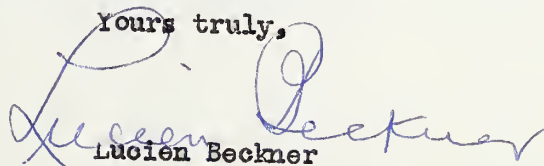
Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry
Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Doctor:

Let me express my regret at not hearing your address on General Ben Hardin Helm at the recent Filson Club meeting. I am one of the councillors of the Southeastern Museum Conference and had to go to Charleston, South Carolina, on museum business at the meeting of the national museum body there, and did not get back in time. I heard many expressions of admiration at your address. I was badly anxious because Mrs. Lewis and Katherine spent a year in my home when I was a young man. My mother had an art class in Winchester and knowing the situation in the Helm family, invited those two, young women to come and assist her. They were delightful, house companions and we became life-long friends. I would often take my two girls out to their home in Fayette County and spend part of the day with Miss Emily, the girls, and Ben. The girls were full of stories about their Uncle Abe and their sojourn in the White House. I might have added something to your story had I been there. I know I would have enjoyed your recitation of the life of my friends.

The woman who owned the Abe Lincoln hat has just died and her administrator asked me recently to put a value on it. I replied that I knew no value it had because I did not know the facts about its history. They do not know what to do with it and if you think it is worth your attention you might write to her, as I forget the name of her lawyer. I think the hat has descended to her niece who lived with her. It is not in good condition as it has been used as a family wonder and handled by every one who comes in.

Yours truly,


Lucien Beckner

LB:c

May 22, 1958

Administrator
Hazel I. Lucas
110 W. Chestnut Street
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

For several years I have corresponded with Mrs. Hazel I. Lucas concerning the hat which she owned which was supposed to be that of Abraham Lincoln's.

I have never followed up my correspondence with Mrs. Lucas because she would not put a price on the hat. Also I found that she did not have any papers to authenticate it.

Today I have learned of the death of Mrs. Lucas and I am wondering what disposition is to be made of the hat.

Would you want to send it to me for an examination? Perhaps I could let you know then whether or not it would be of value to our Foundation.

Hoping to hear from you regarding this matter, I remain

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RCM:hw

DOI: 10.1002/for

May 22, 1958

Mr. Lucien Beckner
311 West Chestnut Street
Louisville, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Beckner:

I was glad to have your letter of May 19th. I, too, was sorry that you could not be present at The Filson Club on May 5th when I gave my talk on Ben Hardin Helm. I heard several people ask where you were.

You will be interested to know that my address will be published in the July Number of The Filson Club Quarterly.

I have written to the administrator of the Hazel I. Lucas estate about the hat. I am fearful that it is nothing more than a novelty. Lincoln wore a tall stove pipe type hat and the one Mrs. Lucas owned evidently is much smaller than the kind Lincoln wore.

Nevertheless, I asked the administrator to send it to me to examine so I could let him know whether or not I am interested. They may or may not be willing to do this. Anyway I certainly do appreciate your help in the matter.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

THE KENTUCKY TRUST COMPANY

AFFILIATED WITH FIRST NATIONAL BANK

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LOUISVILLE 1, KY.

May 28, 1958

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Re: Estate of Hazel L. Givan

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

The Kentucky Trust Company qualified recently as Administrator with the will annexed of the estate of Mrs. Hazel Lucas Givan. In that capacity we have been forwarded your letter of May 22, 1958 relative to the hat purported to have belonged to Abraham Lincoln, which was owned by Mrs. Givan.

I have discussed with the family your offer of examining the hat and we would be delighted to ship it to you for examination. In the next few days I shall contact a local mover and make arrangements to crate and ship it to you. Any thing in your experience which might be helpful in identifying the hat, together with your estimate of the hat's value to your Foundation, would be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,



Assistant Secretary

EEB/jw

CC: Mr. Hector Rose, Attorney
528 Kentucky Home Life Building
Louisville 2, Kentucky

Mr. John W. Wilder, Guardian for Harvey L. Clark
2119 Osage Avenue

June 5, 1958

Mr. Everett B. Ballard,
Assistant Secretary
The Kentucky Trust Company
Louisville, 1, Kentucky

Re: Estate of Hazel L. Givan

Dear Mr. Ballard:

I have received the hat purported to have belonged to Abraham Lincoln. It came in good condition.

I am beginning an intensive study of all the clues I can find to try to identify it with Abraham Lincoln.

I hope you will allow me to keep it for several days in order that I can give it proper study. I will keep it in a fireproof vault while it is in my care.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:mmm

Air Mail - Special Delivery

THE KENTUCKY TRUST COMPANY

June 5, 1958

Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I have had submitted to the Foundation for sale a so-called Lincoln stovepipe hat. Inside the band appears the inscription "A. Lincoln, Oct. 6, '64."

I am quite interested in comparing the size of this hat with the one you have on exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution. Can you secure for me some measurements of the height, width of brim and hat size?

The genuine beaver hat submitted to us for sale was made by the Granville Hatters, London, England. It appears to have been purchased at 4810 Cottage Grove, Chicago, Illinois.

Any help you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

RGM:mm

R. Gerald McMurtry

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

June 13, 1958

Mr. Everett E. Ballard,
Trust Department
The Kentucky Trust Company
Louisville, 1, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ballard:

I have made a careful study of the so-called Lincoln hat that is the property of the estate of Hazel L. Givan. I have tried to run down every clue to attempt to tie it to Abraham Lincoln. I have failed in every particular.

The writing on the band "A. Lincoln" is not in Lincoln's hand. I will admit that the date "October 6, '64" is quite baffling.

Several days ago I wrote the Smithsonian Institution for measurement and information that they can give me concerning the authentic Lincoln hat they have on exhibition. However, it requires several weeks to receive an answer to an inquiry of this kind. Once I hear from them I will send you a copy of the letter.

Last year a Lincoln hat sold for \$1500. However, it was backed up with authentic documents and proof that it was once the property of Abraham Lincoln.

I would rather pay \$1000 for a Lincoln hat of known authenticity than \$50 for one of doubtful origin.

If it were not for the date "Oct. 6, '64" in the lining, I would immediately conclude that the hat was used by a theatrical group wherein someone portrayed the Sixteenth President.

As I cannot establish the authenticity of the hat, I am in no position to make you an offer for it.

Today I am returning it to you in the identical packing case and wooden box in which you sent it to me.

I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to examine the hat.

Sincerely yours,

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JUN 20 1958

Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

Your letter dated June 5, 1958, to the Smithsonian Institution has been referred to the Department of Civil History for reply.

Mr. Charles G. Dorman, Assistant Curator of the Division of Political History, has measured the Lincoln hat in the museum collection and submits the following information:

The firm name, "J. Y. Davis, Washington City," is stamped inside the crown.

The hat measurements are:

Front to rear, inside, 7-3/4"
Side to side, inside, 6-1/2"

According to modern hat measures, this would be a 7-1/8 size hat, taking into account that the original black leather sweat band, now much crumpled, took some additional space.

Brim from underside, front to rear, 12"
Brim from underside, side to rear, 10-1/2"
Width of brim, 2"
Height of crown, 7"
Top of crown, front to rear, 7-3/4"
Width of crown, 7-1/2"

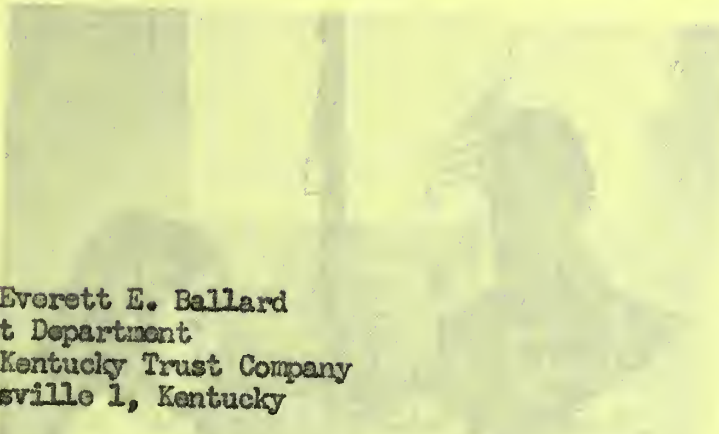
Very truly yours,



Anthony Garvan
Head Curator
Department of Civil History

Daily Oklahoman 2-10-52

State to Mark Lincoln Day



Abe's Belongings
From Historical
Society Exhibit

June 25, 1958

Mr. Everett E. Ballard
Trust Department
The Kentucky Trust Company
Louisville 1, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Ballard:

I have received from the Head Curator of the Department of Civil History of Smithsonian Institution a detailed description of a Lincoln Hat which they have on exhibit in Washington, D. C. It has occurred to me that you might be interested in these measurements and that they might be helpful to you in your efforts to dispose of the hat which is a part of the property of the Estate of Hazel L. Givan.

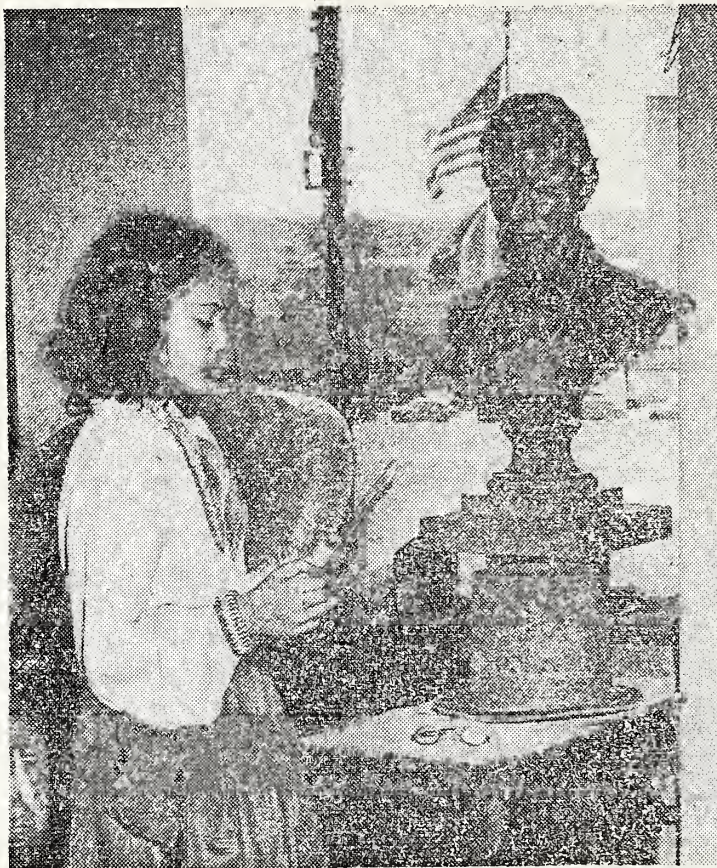
I trust that this information will be of interest to you.

Yours sincerely,

RGMcMurtry:jn

Director

State to Mark Lincoln Day



—Daily Oklahoman Staff Photo
A young visitor to the Lincoln room of the State Historical building, Annie Margaret Rankin, 11, Carter, examines with interest relics of the Great Emancipator on display here. The chair at left was Lincoln's favorite in the White House. On the table beneath the bust of Lincoln are his stovepipe hat and a pair of spectacles worn by the Civil war president.

Abe's Belongings Form Historical Society Exhibit

A STOVEPIPE hat and pair of spectacles worn by Abraham Lincoln, and the Great Emancipator's favorite chair in the White House, are the current attraction for scores of visitors to the Oklahoma Historical building here.

Tuesday, Oklahoma and the rest of the nation observes the 143rd anniversary of the birth of the Civil War president, with the observance here centering in the historical building.

The Oklahoma collection of Lincoln relics—often eyed enviously by other states closely associated with his career—includes several personal items, most of which came to the state with pioneers whose families originated in Illinois and Kentucky.

The stovepipe hat, fragile with the years, is guarded in a glass case. It was received by the historical society from Mrs. John W. Felix and Mrs. Mary Aliee Stahl Edwards, daughter and granddaughter of John Wesley Stahl to whom the hat was given by Lincoln.

The chair found its way to Oklahoma with Mrs. Martha H. Flick, who willed it to the 89ers society, which, in turn, gave it to the historical society.

The chair was a gift to Mrs. Flick from Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant.

Also in the Lincoln room are documents signed by Lincoln; a desk, used by both Lincoln and Grant during visits to Galesburg, Ill.; a counterpane, presented to the society by Col. Jacob Amberg while he was superintendent of the Union soldiers home. Lincoln once used it as a shawl while making a trip in Illinois.

Lincoln's birthday ceremonies at the historical building will start at 1 p.m. in the Union Memorial room. Program includes a memorial address by Herbert K. Hyde, attorney. Prof. Wayne Campbell of Oklahoma City University will read the Gettysburg address and excerpts from Lincoln's second inaugural address.

Music will be by a group from the Central highschool band and members of the interdenominational choir. A reception will follow the program.

So Abe Lincoln Had Two Hats? 'Claim Check' Turns Up for One

How many hats did Abraham Lincoln leave?

Nobody knows for certain, but a question over one, or possibly two, is about to be reopened.

A court case over one Lincoln hat—or maybe it was two—in 1896 did not shed much light on the situation.

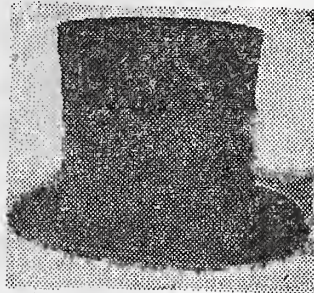
A Washington family said there was just one hat, which had been worn by the Great Emancipator at his Second Inaugural, sent to them by Mrs. Lincoln and lent by them to the Patent Office for a Lincoln exhibit and never returned.

The Government, however, maintained that there were two hats, and that the hat in court had been worn by Mr. Lincoln on the night of his assassination, and had been in continuous possession of the Government ever since.

The Gurley family lost the suit and the hat because, according to family tradition, the letter covering the hat could not be found.

Now the letter is available but the hat seems to be missing.

The Rev. Melville Brooks Gur-



LINCOLN HAT
Are There More?

ley is bring the letter, dated May 22, 1865, to Washington next Friday. It was sent to his grandfather, the Rev. Phineas O. Gurley, pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

It reads as follows:

Dear Sir:

Please accept as a memento of the very kind regard entertained for you by My Beloved Husband, the hat worn by him for the first and only time at his Second Inaugural. While its intrinsic value is trifling, you will prize it, for the associations that cluster around it. If anything

can cast a ray of light across my dreary and blighted pathway, the recollection of your Christian Kindness, extended to myself and Family in our heavy bereavements will ever be most gratefully cherished.

With love to Mrs. Gurley, I remain

Your heartbroken friend,

Mary T. Lincoln.

Dr. Gurley wrote a paragraph of the Emancipation Proclamation and preached Lincoln's funeral oration.

The present rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Bala-Cynwed, Pa., found the letter after the trial about 58 years ago, too late to substantiate the family's claim to the disputed hat. He has been considering giving the letter to the Smithsonian Institution, so that letter and hat can be reunited.

The Gurleys got separated from their hat, which was brought around to the rectory by Lincoln's valet, Tom Cross, when Dr. Gurley's son Melville lent it to the Patent Office for a Lincoln Exhibit. A card, indicating that it was a loan got detached

See HAT, Page A-6

HAT

Continued From First Page

from the hat or lost in the shuffle, and the hat itself was sent from the Patent Office to the Government Museum of which Osborn H. Oldroyd was custodian.

It was in Oldroyd's that the Reverend Gurley's daughter saw what she thought was her hat again, several years later. She sent a constable for it, kept the hat for 7 months, won custody of it from a Justice of the Peace, but had to give it up to the Government later. Mrs. Adams sued for its return.

When the case came to trial, on October 16, 1896, the Adamses

could not find what they felt would be the clinching evidence in their favor, Mrs. Lincoln's letter. Mr. Lincoln's valet, Tom Cross came forward, identified the hat as the one he had brought to the Reverend Gurley at Mrs. Lincoln's behest. Since it was known that he could wear Mr. Lincoln's hats, he tried on the disputed one, "much," The Star of that day reports, "to the amusement of the jury."

But the Government contended that there were two different hats involved. Their hat, District Attorney Birney contended, was worn by the President the night of his assassination, taken into custody by the Judge Advocate General of the Army, Joseph Holt, and turned over by him to the War Department.

Government Had Letter, Too

And, sure enough, the Smithsonian has in its files a letter from Lincoln's son, Robert Lincoln, in which he acknowledges receipt of the assassination hat. In a letter dated the White House, January 25, 1866, he wrote as follows to Assistant Secretary of War T. T. Eckert:

"Your favor of letter of January 11 with enclosure from Honorable Joseph Holt. I have spoken to my mother in regard to the hat in possession of Gen. Holt and we think the disposition you propose—the Patent Office—would be perfectly proper."

At the trial the judge never did say whether or not it was a question of two hats. But he directed the jury to award the hat in court to the Government on the grounds that the statute of limitations on the Adams' claim had expired.

Dr. Gurley on being told that the Smithsonian Institution had a covering letter of their own for their hat, was inclined to think that maybe his letter doesn't go with their hat.

He is coming down to the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church Peter Marshall Group Lincoln Dinner next Friday to tell them about his letter. He intends to visit Leonard Carmichael, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution on February 13.

His only purpose, he says, is not to re-open an old controversy but simply to show the warm relations that existed between the Lincoln and Gurley families and to illustrate "the Christian faith of Abraham Lincoln," who apparently had two hats.

Revisiting Lincoln's America

THE REAL ABRAHAM LINCOLN
By Reinhard H. Luthin. Introduction
by Allan Nevins. Prentice-Hall. \$10.45
LINCOLN FOR THE AGES. Edited by
Ralph G. Newman. Doubleday. \$5.95.

IF LINCOLN were living he would be 152 years old. All the people of his time are gone. Occasionally, years ago, one might see a Lincolnesque face. Today it would be all but impossible to find one.

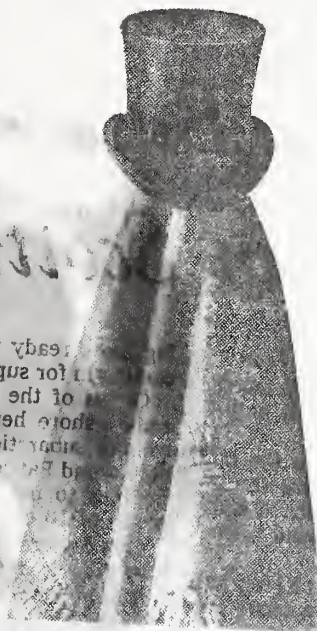
Lincoln lived in a world different from ours and it is one well worth exploring again and again. The authors and publishers of these two magnificent books deserve thanks for "bringing bone to his bone" and making Lincoln stand, a living hero.

For 15 years Reinhard H. Luthin has been working on Lincoln history, seeing the unencumbered truth about the president. He has thrown aside the Ann Rutledge exaggeration and many another legend. He asks his reader to forget whatever he might have read before, including the eulogies, and to look at the man himself.

With 676 pages and elaborate notes, Dr. Luthin's book is one to warrant a whole winter's reading.

Despite the magnitude of the literature on Lincoln, one feels, after reading a biography like this, that the Lincoln story still has many mysteries and hidden facets.

There is Lincoln's life in Indiana, for example. He lived close to New Harmony, with its striking culture and utopian hopes, yet no solid link seems to have been traced out.



From the jacket of "Lincoln for the Ages."

Robert Owen's famous "boatload of knowledge" landed at the site of this unusual community in 1826. The Lincolns lived at Pigeon Creek in Spencer county, where young Abraham had most of his ABC schooling and where, he later said, he became possessed of his passion for plain language.

Did the influence of the scientists and scholars at New Harmony extend those 50-odd miles to Pigeon Creek? Might New Harmony have been the source of Lincoln's bias in favor of votes for women?

Dr. Luthin's book is strewn with facts that attract one's attention like prairie flowers. Lincoln, we note, was fond of the ridiculous, sarcastic poem about Miss Flora McFlimsey who had nothing to wear. He liked the music to "Dixie" and refused to admit that it belonged to the south. He insisted on keeping the record clear about ours being "one country," even in courteous parley

with secession leaders. His reaction to good news from Grant's army was to say he must tell his wife.

Altogether the tall, swarthy president with the battered stovepipe hat and rusty black coat walks out of the book a lovable man endowed with great good sense.

"Lincoln for the Ages" is a collection of 72 essays on various features of Lincoln's life, character and times. It contains a chronology, biographical sketches of the contributors, reference sources for quotations used as titles, and a helpful list of 112 books for anyone eager to form a Lincoln library. In the essays are many illuminating sidelights.

The president, said Mrs. Lincoln, planned to take the family to Europe at the end of his second term. In that case he might have worn the tall hat and broche-shawl shown on the book's dust jacket.

One shudders a little in reading of the exhumation of the coffin of little Willie—William Wallace Lincoln—who died three years before his father. The small casket was dug up so that it might rest at the foot of Lincoln's. But that is how things were done in that far-off world of 1865.

FRANCES STOVER.

Lincoln's Silk Hat Has Illinois Home

CARMI, Ill. (P) — Abraham Lincoln's silk hat is being given to the White County Museum by a Chicago attorney who received it as a fee for legal services.

Atty. Felix Visk of Fontana, Wis., told the museum the hat was made in Springfield, Ill., and that Lincoln gave it to a coach-man who lived in Petersburg, Ill.

It was often displayed at county fairs.

17

Lincoln's Silk Top Hat Donated to Museum

CARMI, Ill. (AP) — Abraham Lincoln's silk hat is being given to the White County Museum by a Chicago attorney who received it as a fee for legal services.

Atty. Felix Visk of Fontana, Wis., told the museum the hat was made in Springfield, Ill., and that Lincoln gave it to a coachman who lived in Petersburg, Ill.

It was often displayed at county fairs.

22

ST. PATRICK'S IMPERILED



Dousing St. Patrick's steeple

CARLETON M. EYLER/PHOTO ARTS CLUB, TOLEDO, OHIO

As T. H. Watkins reported in his "A Heritage Preserved" column for the December, 1980, issue, the Photo Arts Club of Toledo, Ohio, and the Landmarks Committee of the Maumee Valley Historical Society teamed up in 1979 to launch a remarkable project: the compilation of a photographic record of the architectural and decorative features of the region's historic buildings so that there would at least be *something* left should disaster or the wrecker's ball strike them down. The first building chosen was Toledo's St. Patrick's church.

None too soon, as it turned out. On September 9, 1980, lightning struck the huge copper-covered wooden cross on top of St. Patrick's steeple, burning through the metal and setting the cross ablaze. The flames soon ate away most of the steeple, although after several hours of effort firefighters saved both the roof and the interior of the church from major injury. Still, water damage did its work—a grim reminder that the Photo Arts Club and the Landmarks Committee had hit upon an idea whose time definitely had come.

THE TOP HAT CONTROVERSY

In "The Residue of Assassination," a *Postscripts* item in our April/May, 1980, issue, we reported that a top hat auctioned off by the firm of Sotheby Parke Bernet in November, 1979, was the one Lincoln had worn on the night of his death. Not necessarily so, says Richard Sloan, editor of *The Lincoln Log* newsletter: "I read with interest the article which stated that the beaver top hat worn by Lincoln to Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865, eventually wound up in the collection of Roy P. Crocker, then was sold for \$10,000. However, it is certainly not the one Lincoln wore on the night of the assassination. There is, in fact, insufficient provenance that the hat was ever Lincoln's. According to a spokesman for Parke Bernet, the auction house which sold it, the only evidence that it was Lincoln's was some notes in Mr. Crocker's file from the dealer who sold it to him. These related only that it had 'traditionally been associated with Lincoln through the years.'"

"Checking back to the long article in your special assassination issue of April, 1965, I find a photo of another beaver hat, from the Smithsonian Institution collection, which, according to the authors, Lincoln *did* wear to Ford's Theater. I checked with Smithsonian curator Herbert Collins, and he tells me that the Institution does indeed have the hat Lincoln wore when he was shot, and that it is exhibited. 'There is no

question,' he adds, 'as to the documentation.'"

"I would be inclined to accept Mr. Collins's word on the matter, even though there may be some small question in my own mind. You see, I have found a clipping from the February 6, 1928, *Washington Star* which reports the discovery of the ledger kept by the desk sergeant of the Washington Metropolitan Police in 1865. It lists hats, pistol, etc. 'brought to the office by Supt. A. C.



Above, the Smithsonian's hat; right, Parke Bernet's



Richards, and found in the vicinity of the assassination of President Lincoln.' Although part of the entry states that one of the hats was 'supposedly to be the President's,' it concludes with the puzzling statement that these articles, 'except for the beaver hat, are supposedly to be connected with the assassination.' Of course, it cannot be determined if this refers to the hat in the Smithsonian or how accurate the ledger is. Nevertheless, if anyone wanted to see the hat Lincoln wore that fateful night, their best bet would be to go to the Smithsonian."

CORRECTIONS

A number of readers have written in to point out that in our "Postscripts" department for the August/September, 1980, issue, we identified Bruce and William Catton as the authors of *The Glory and the Dream*. William Manchester, of course, was the author of that book. The Catton book is *The Bold and Magnificent Dream*. As well, in the "for further reading" note

that followed "God Pity a One-Dream Man" in our June/July, 1980, issue, we neglected to mention the fact that *The Papers of Robert H. Goddard* were co-edited by G. Edward Pendray—himself a pioneer in rocket research and a founder of the American Rocket Society, now the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Our apologies to all concerned.

PB Eighty-Four

171 EAST 84 STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10028 • 212/472-3584

EXHIBITION HOURS: Saturday, 10-5 pm; Monday 9-7:30 pm; Tuesday, 9-2 pm

Note: The pre-sale exhibition closes early on the day preceding the auction.

OCTOBER

GOOD SILVER, DECORATIONS, PAINTINGS, FURNITURE & RUGS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 and THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4 at 10 am. On view from September 29 • Catalogue #709, \$5 (\$6 overseas)

JUDAICA

including books and manuscripts, ceremonial objects, paintings and textiles.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 at 10 am. On view from October 6 • Catalogue #710, \$5 (\$6 overseas)

Business offices closed; exhibition galleries open Monday, October 8: Columbus Day

AMERICAN & EUROPEAN 19TH CENTURY PAINTINGS, WATERCOLORS, DRAWINGS & SCULPTURE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 at 2 pm and 6 pm. On view from October 6 • Catalogue #711, \$6 (\$7 overseas)

FINE CHINESE SNUFF BOTTLES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 at 10 am. On view from October 6 • Catalogue #712, \$6 (\$7 overseas)

CAUCASIAN, TURCOMAN, VILLAGE, NOMADIC AND PERSIAN RUGS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 at 10 am. On view from October 13 • Catalogue #713, \$7 (\$8 overseas)

VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL VII

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 at 10 am. On view from October 20 • Catalogue #714, \$7 (\$8 overseas)

ANTIQUE JEWELRY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 at 10 am and 2 pm. On view from October 20 • Catalogue #715, \$6 (\$7 overseas)

GOOD ORIENTAL WORKS OF ART

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31 at 10 am. On view from October 27 • Catalogue #716, \$7 (\$8 overseas)

EARLY NOVEMBER

PRE-COLUMBIAN, AFRICAN, OCEANIC AND INDIAN WORKS OF ART

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1 at 10 am. On view from October 27 • Catalogue #717, \$5 (\$6 overseas)

Business offices closed, exhibition galleries open Tuesday, November 6: Election Day

FURNITURE AND DECORATIVE ARTS FROM 1875

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 at 10 am. On view from November 3 • Catalogue #718, \$5 (\$6 overseas)

OLD MASTER, NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY PRINTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 at 10 am. On view from November 3 • Catalogue #720, \$5 (\$6 overseas)

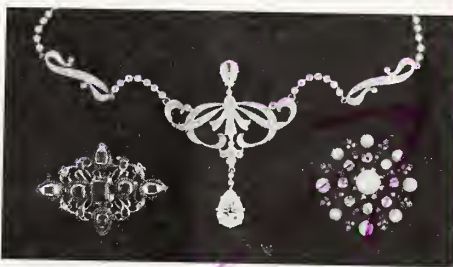
Business offices closed, exhibition galleries open Monday, November 12: Veteran's Day

OLD MASTER AND MODERN PAINTINGS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 at 2 pm and 6 pm. On view from November 10 • Catalogue #721, \$7 (\$8 overseas)



Venetian prayer book, 1590, mounted in a German silver binding ca. 1600, included in the Judaica sale at PB-84 on October 10.



A selection from the sale of fine Antique Jewelry to be held at PB-84 on October 25.



An American stenciled & painted lady's writing table, ca. 1850, labeled Charles A. Baudouine, included in PB-84's "Victorian International" Sale-VII on October 24.



On The Horizon

Hat's Off to Lincoln!



Lincoln's top hat bearing its original label and in its original box; the opera glasses used by the President in Ford's theatre the night of his assassination; Lincoln's license to sell liquor at a tavern he operated as a young man; a letter from his first school teacher and one from the minister who presided at his wedding ceremony; a check from Lincoln to his 8-year old son, "Master Tad", for one gold dollar . . .

These are but a sampling of the enormous array of Lincoln letters, manuscript material and memorabilia to be auctioned at SPB/NY on November 28. The collection, to be sold by order of the Lincoln Savings & Loan Association in Los Angeles, was formed by the late Roy P. Crocker who was President and Chairman of the Board. It is the finest collection of Lincolniana to be offered at auction since the Oliver Barrett sale at Parke-Bernet in 1952.

In addition to the historic Lincoln material, the sale will contain an exceptional collection of checks signed by noted Americans: numerous Presidents, Harry Houdini, Alexander Graham Bell, Robert E. Lee, Annie Oakley, and Mark Twain — to name but a few. Also included is a large selection of letters and documents written by Presidents from George Washington to Lyndon Johnson. Details about the auction will follow in the next issue of the Newsletter.

RECORDED SCHEDULE OF SALES

For up-to-the minute announcements of New York exhibitions and auctions, you may dial 212/472-3555 at anytime of the day or night.

Abe's memorabilia logs expensive sale

The Daily Herald, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Lincoln collectors did not have to wait for Feb. 12 to celebrate. They attended a spectacular auction of Lincoln material this fall.

Abraham Lincoln's stovepipe hat sold for \$10,000; the opera glasses he used at Ford's Theatre the night of his assassination brought \$24,000, and a copy of the 13th Amendment that confirmed Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, signed by Lincoln as well as 38 senators and 115 representatives, went for \$35,000 at the sale of the Crocker collection at Sotheby Parke Bernet in New York.

The check from Lincoln to his 8-year-old son "Master Tad" for one gold dollar cost the buyer 12,000 green paper ones. The price was a record for any presidential check, topping the

Lita Solis-Cohen



Antiques

FEB 10 1980

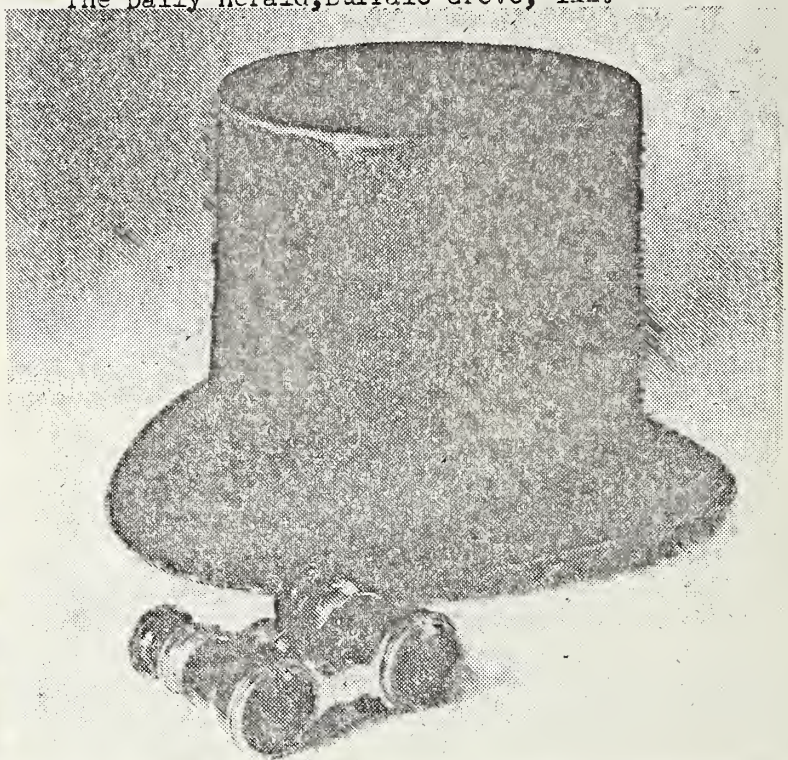
\$5,250 paid for a check of John F. Kennedy's at Sotheby Parke Bernet last season.

The receipt for \$6 that Lincoln paid to get a license to sell "spiritual liquors" at a tavern he operated in New Salem, Ill., was worth \$1,100 to a collector, and the sale contract for the house Lincoln purchased for \$750 in 1844 went for \$21,000. That's for the piece of paper, not the house.

In all, the collection of Lincolniana and American historical and financial letters and documents formed by the late Roy P. Crocker, president and chairman of the board of the Lincoln Savings and Loan Assn. in Los Angeles, brought a total of \$439,405.

MALCOLM FORBES, publisher of Forbes Magazine, spent \$116,000 on purchases that included the hat, opera glasses and the 13th Amendment. They are on display in the lobby of the Forbes building in New York City.

The value of any historical relic depends on its documentation, and the opera glasses have the most complete documentation of any Lincoln relic. On the night that Lincoln was shot, the opera glasses were picked up by James P. McCamly, captain of the City Guards in Washington, who also accompanied Lincoln's body to Springfield for the funeral. McCamly asked



LINCOLN'S BEAVERSKIN top hat sold for \$10,000 and the opera glasses he was using the night of the assassination brought \$24,000 at Sotheby Parke Bernet's recent sale of the Roy P. Crocker Collection of Lincoln and other historical documents.

Mrs. Lincoln if he could keep the glasses, and she agreed.

Lincoln was using the glasses when he was shot. They were out of their case. According to the affidavit sold with the lot, the case that originally held the glasses was found on the floor of the box by theater owner Clay Ford, and it is now in Ford's Theatre Museum in Washington.

In 1968, McCamly's daughter took the glasses to Ford's Theatre, and they fit perfectly into the case. She obtained a letter from the Park Service testifying to that fact.

The beaverskin hat has a less well documented provenance and, for that reason, brought a lower price. It certainly is a hat of that period and of a stovepipe shape associated with Lincoln.

THE MOST notorious Lincoln fake relic also was in the sale. It is a 10- by seven-inch stone carved with the legend "A. Lincoln Ann Rutledge were betrothed here, July 4, 1833."

At the turn of the century, an ingenious fellow "dug up" the stone in New Salem and got maximum newspaper

coverage for it. Oliver Barrett bought it and probably paid a considerable sum for it.

Sandburg illustrated it in *Lincoln Collector*, which was published in 1950. By the time of the Barrett sale of Lincolniana in 1952, it already had been discredited.

The myth that Ann Rutledge was Lincoln's true love had been proven to be the invention of William Herndon, Lincoln's secretary, who hated Mrs. Lincoln. When the stone was tested, it turned out to be composition. Nevertheless, it brought \$75.

At the Crocker sale, this fake went under the hammer at \$400 because it is considered a piece of folk art and because it has been in two important collections.

Comments and questions are welcome. Write to Lita Solis-Cohen, The Artists and Writers Syndicate, 1034 National Press Building, Washington, D.C. 20045. If you would like a reply, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



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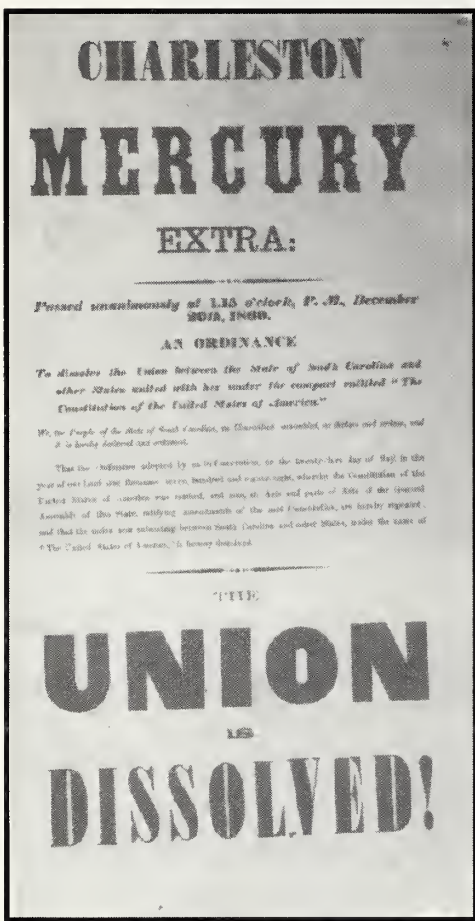
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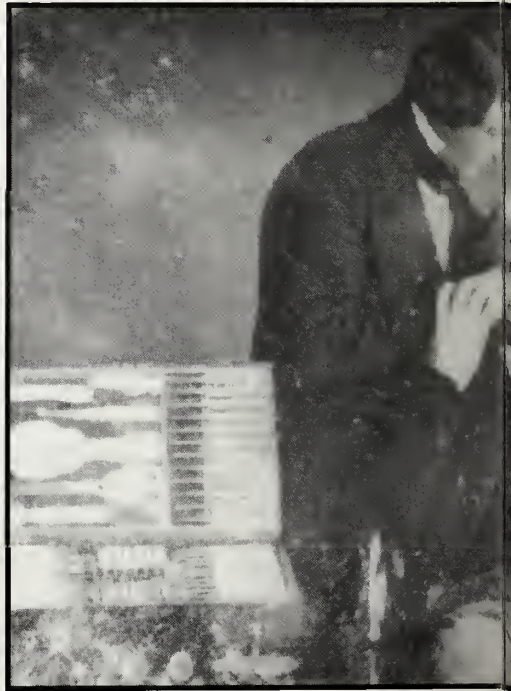
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BUFFALO BILL PIPE

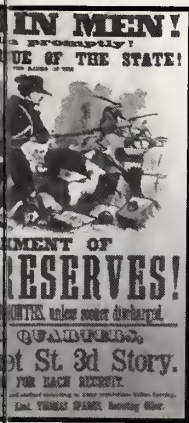


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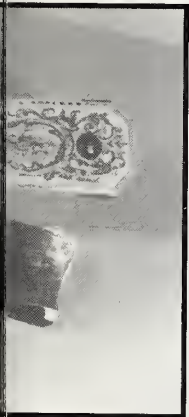
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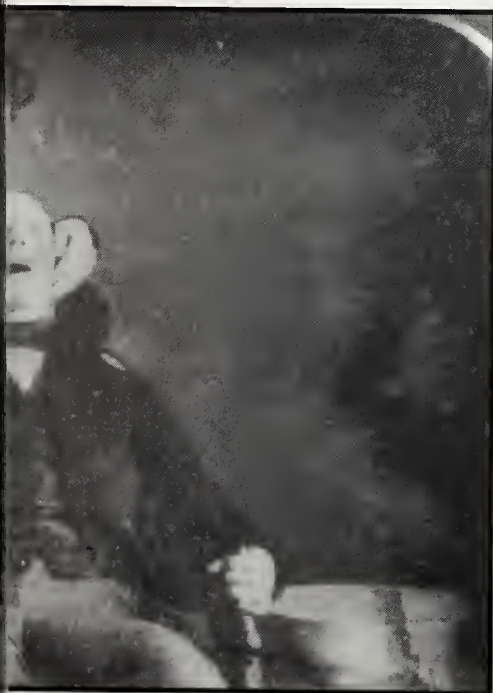
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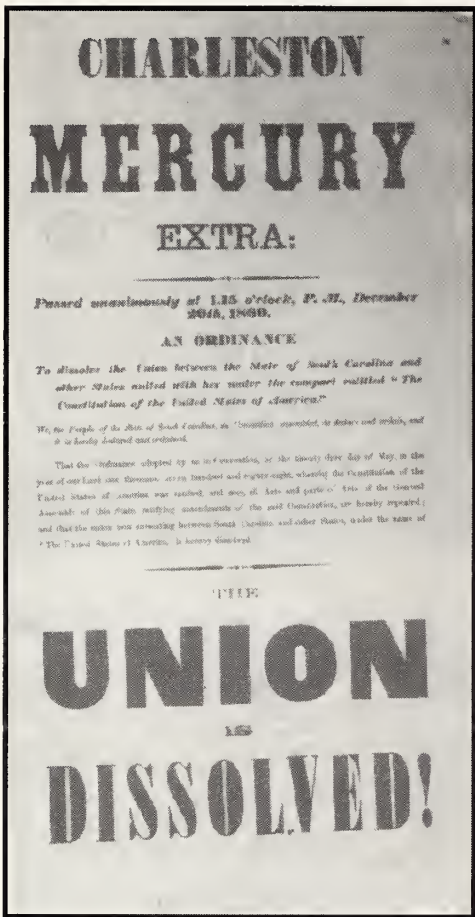
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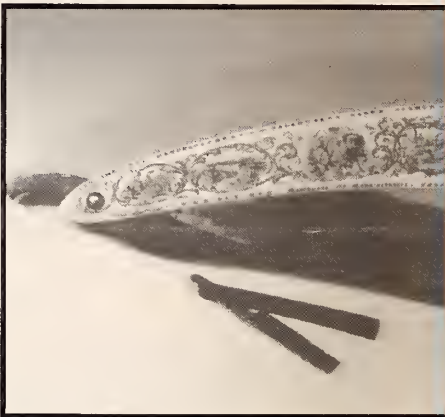
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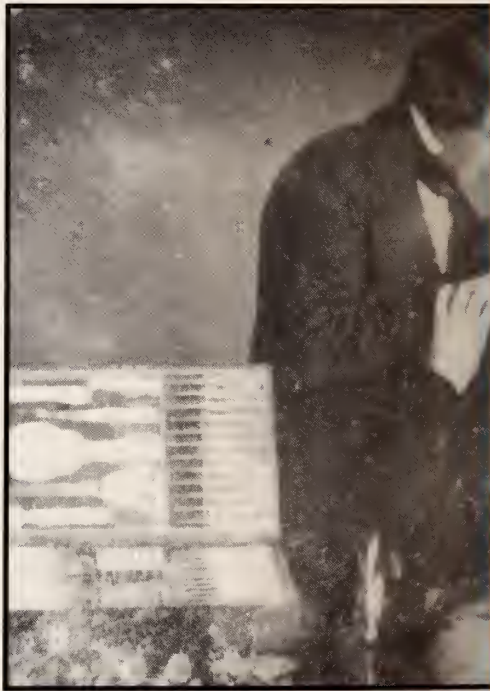
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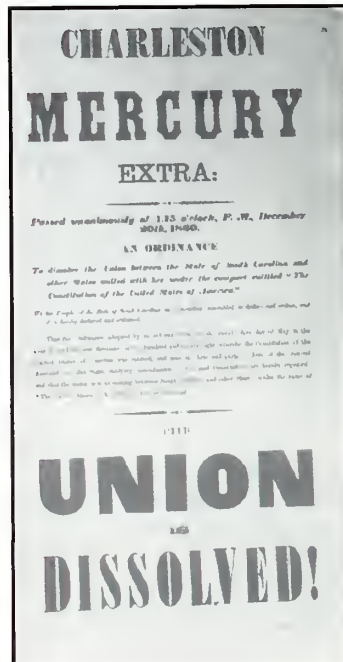
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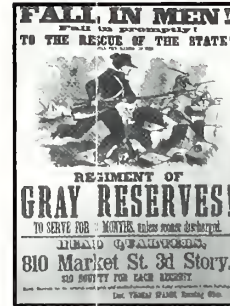
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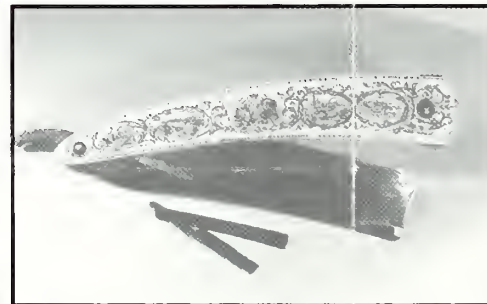
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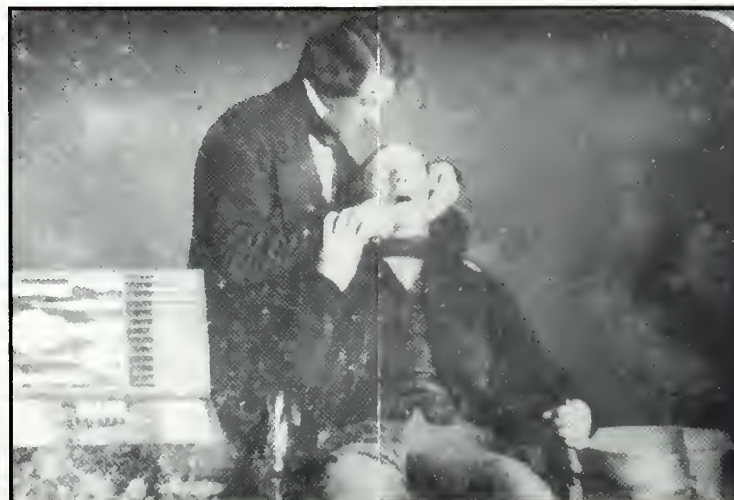
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LINCOLN'S HAT BOX

PHOTOGRAPHY: Dag of Dentist w/patient; outdoor images; unusual portraits; Fireman; Mason; Musicians; man w/rifle; Lucas family of Georgia; children w/dolls; Biglow photos; ambros of gamblers; Niagara Falls; unusual cases and poses; Fireman; postmortems; occupationals; outdoor views; pets; Blacks; a large collection of tintypes; occupationals; CDVs; cabinets; stereo views; Western; Indians; Alaska; Edward Curtis; Yukon Territory; albumens; a large collection of Civil War ambros and tintypes both North and South including a 1/2 pt. ambro of Rose O'Neal Greenhow, Southern spy. Confederate officers and soldiers; over 100 lots of photography.

CIVIL WAR: Rare broadside "Union Is Dissolved"; large illustrated recruiting broadsides; letters; images; broadside signed by Beauregard 1862; signed Lee by Brady; iron Civil War period frames; Clara Barton letters and leather bag; R.E. Lee speech, Savannah, GA; Confederate autographs; Forbes Civil War prints; large painting by Gilbert Gaul; Gettysburg watercolor by F.H. Schell; drawing of G.B. McClellan by K.M. Baker 1862.

LINCOLN: Lincoln's leather hat box 1861; military appointments; prints; broadsides; rare photo of John Surratt by Brady; CDVs; political items; more.

AUTOGRAPHS: John Adams; Chester Arthur; Eisenhower; Garfield; Harding; Hayes; Jefferson; Andrew Johnson; Madison; Monroe; Pierce; F.D.R.; T. Roosevelt; Taft; Wilson; Lincoln; Grant; Group lots; Albert Bierstadt; Napoleon; Benj. Cardozo; Samuel Clemens; ee cummings; Walt Disney; Einstein; Sigmund Freud; Hollywood Stars; 14th c. French doc.; H.L. Mencken; Samuel Morse; Carry Nation; Rembrandt Peale; Eli Terry; Rudolph Valentino; John Wayne; Daniel Webster; Whitmore papers; Large groups of signed photos. Sam Adams; John Hancock; Josiah Bartlett; Geo. Clymer; Alex. Hamilton; Francis Hopkinson; Wm. Irvine; Lafayette; Laussant; Benj. Lincoln; Thomas Mifflin; Peyton Randolph; Anthony Wayne; William Whipple; other misc. lots. See other sections.

REV. WAR/WAR 1812: Autographs, documents, broadsides; 1777 printing of Articles of Confederation, Boston; John Trumbull original drawings 1786; 1760's letters N.Y.; 17th c. documents; earliest view of Quebec by Thomas Johnson; War 1812 broadsides; print Battle of Lexington by J. Baker.

WESTERN/OUTLAWS/ECCENTRICS: Sam Houston; Isaac Parker (Hanging Judge); Court doc. re Charles Guiteau; 1832 Indian letter; Dorr broadside; Lizzie Borden ALS; Nicola Sacco ALS; Indian peace medals; Buffalo Bill portrait pipe; poster for Wm. F. Carver; western photos; Wounded Knee medal; Custer CDV.

POLITICAL: Group of early pins; Henry Ford for President; Parian plaque for Z. Taylor; travel mirror Washington; ribbons; 18th Ben. Franklin portrait coin; Taft figure; unusual T.R. bronze early Washington razor; early Franklin snuff box; Taft figure; misc. cloth items; ambro fremount; cast iron McClellan mirror frames 1862; plus more.

EPHEMERA/MISC.: Large display straight razor; poster proofs by Geo. Schlegel including Heinz and Guldens mustard, Zira Cigarettes; Marquise cigs; Daggett Cold Cream; Turkey Red cigs;

trade cards; fine cigar label sample book; broadsides; Bradleys Toy (Game) Catalogue 1884; Whaling log 1837 (with wonderful illus.); sailors journal; poster by Lyndecker-Rogers and Co., Chicago (Book Printers). Over 24 historical Staffordshire plates; railroad prints and large photos; early time tables/Western and South; stage coach broadside; Currier and Ives prints; aviation photos (early); Thomas Edison photos and glass plates; early American maps.

BASEBALL: Ty Cobb letter; signed baseball by Rogers Hornsby; Spaldings books; signed baseball cards 1940's; playing cards; large lot of baseball photos; other misc. items.



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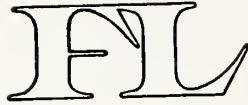
★ ★ ★ MIDWEST EDITION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1996

BOWLING GREEN, OHIO

BRIEFS: A "vertical fish tasting" next week at Philadelphia Fish & Co. in Philadelphia will allow nibblers to advance from mild to robust fish flavors. . . . The Spirit of Lincoln Award, given by Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. and its Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Ind., includes a new memento — a black, beaver-felt stovepipe hat like the one worn by the 16th president.

—UDAYAN GUPTA



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February 28, 1996

Ms. Carolyn Pitts-Texley
Collections Mgr. & Archivist
THE LINCOLN MUSEUM
200 East Berry
Post Office Box 7838
Ft. Wayne, IN 46802-7838

Dear Ms. Pitts-Texley:

HAT
In accordance with your telephone call yesterday afternoon, enclosed herewith is a Xerox copy of the old newspaper article concerning the (now) 135 year old plush top-hat specially made for and worn to (soon-to-be) president Abraham Lincoln's 1861 Inauguration by Coldwater (Michigan) attorney and Michigan legislator Nathan Barlow, Jr.

Nathan Barlow, my father told me nearly forty years ago, was a particularly able and hard working lawyer, skillful Wolverine legislator and a powerful and tireless voice in regional Republican politics ... whose main energies in and around that point in time were directly centered around the nomination of A. Lincoln.

Little wonder he and Mrs. Barlow eventually received a special invitation to Mr. Lincoln's subsequent Inauguration!

As I related to you briefly last month ... when my father attended both the 1952 and 1956 Democratic National Conventions as a delegate ... he took the old hat along "just for the fun of it." When word of it got out at the 1956 Chicago convention site, the then nearly century old top hat was eventually donned by no less than Illinois Gov. (and eventual nominee) A. Stephenson, my father's great and good friend, Michigan Gov. G. Mennen "Soapy" Williams (who was later to become Ambassador to Greater Africa under JFK), Senators Abraham Ribicoff and Stewart Symington (each to become cabinet officers), Senator John Sparkman (the Vice Presidential nominee), singer Frank Sinatra and Francis Albert Sinatra's close buddy ... a young Senator from the state of Mass., John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

I might mention ... my father, Gov. Williams and others put up an all-out battle in '56 to make JFK the nominee, but that wasn't to be for another four years. I have the special invitation from both John and "Jackie" Kennedy to my mother and father to attend their Inauguration exactly 100 years after this old top-hat attended that of Mr. & Mrs. Lincoln. Unfortunately, my father was deathly ill with a particularly strong strain of flu at the time and could not attend the event.

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Ms. Carolyn Pitts-Textley

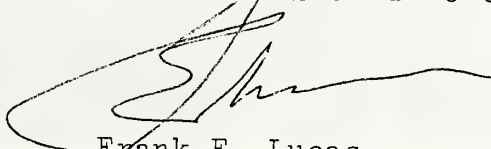
Page 2, two pages

In closing, I should mention I have just learned my wife and I will be out of town Sunday, March 10th, attending one of our daughter's birthday. Nonetheless, we will be here and about on Friday and Saturday ... the 9th and 10th, so I trust this will work out fine for you.

I will look forward to the pleasure of meeting you once again.

Very cordially,

F. L U C A S & C O.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank E. Lucas', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Frank E. Lucas

Founding Chairman

emeritus

FEL:jcr

Another Birthday—100 Years Ago

By TOM HENSHAW
AP Newsfeatures Writer

The special train, a closed little world of its own people and thoughts, labored across the flat Indiana landscape, its high, flat-topped stack trailing smoke that whisped away in its wake.

The little towns of mid-America passed by with their little red stations where people waved.

The lanky man sat jackknifed in a plush chair, a month or so of new-grown beard shadowing his homely face. He scribbled notes, perhaps, or exchanged a dry joke with his companions, or lost himself in thought.

In the baggage car, trunks and chests of personal belongings packed by the man himself were stacked high, each bearing the destination label, written by the man himself:

"A. Lincoln, the White House, Washington, D.C."

Date: Feb. 12, 1861

This was Abraham Lincoln on his 52nd birthday, Feb. 12, 1861, a scant three weeks from becoming President of a disintegrating nation on the threshold of a bloody civil war.

A day's travel behind him lay his beloved Springfield where, on the previous morning, he had stood in the cold, drizzling rain and bade a solemn, prayerful farewell to his friends of a lifetime.

"No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything."

"Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried."

"I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington."

"Without the assistance of that divine being, who attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance I cannot fail."

"Trusting in Him, who can go with me, and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well."

"To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

The train rolled on into an uncertain future.

A Severed Union

In Washington, futile old President James Buchanan, surrounded by intrigue and treason, wrung his hands and waited, like a gasping relay runner hanging on until his successor could take the baton from his grasp.

For many, the union was no more. Seven states already had broken from its bonds. Four others were on the verge. Was it possible with words and deeds to reunite the nation—on terms of honor?

Already the first shots had been fired in anger, from a South Carolina battery on a ship, the Star of the West, carrying supplies to beleaguered Ft. Sumter. Could civil war be averted—again on terms of honor?

The train rolled on.

Aboard, carefully shielded from outside eyes, were 20 copies of the inaugural address to be delivered March 4, its words containing the last hopes of preserving the union.

Lincoln hoped they would and knew they wouldn't.

There was the promise:

"I have no purpose directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists."

There was the firm purpose:

"Physically speaking, we cannot separate. No, state, upon its own mere action, can lawfully get out of the union."

Mystic Chord

And there was the plea and the hopes:

"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies."

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The train rolled on and, perhaps, as Lincoln sat deep in thought, he recalled the parting words of two days before to his old law partner and friend, William H. Herndon:

"I am sick of office holding already and I shudder when I think of the tasks that are still ahead."



... a deeply thoughtful Abraham Lincoln posed for this Mathew Brady photograph on Feb. 26, 1861, less than a week before he took his first presidential oath of office and shouldered a burden greater than any president before him.

Coldwaterite's Top Hat Was At Inauguration Of Lincoln

By SETON BOVEE

An ancient plush top hat present at the inauguration of the 16th President of the United States in Washington a century ago, the other day "attended" the inauguration of this country's 35th President via the modern miracle of television.

Here is the story:

Years ago when Frank Lucas, former Branch county Democratic chairman, was a boy the hat was presented to him by Henry H. Barlow, Coldwater attorney, who sternly admonished "Frankie, you take care of this because some day it will mean a lot to you."

The hat, Lucas remembers the donor telling him, was worn by his father, Nathan Barlow Jr., a state legislator of a century ago, to the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln.

Down through the years Lucas has treasured and taken good care of the venerable headpiece, which he calls his "bi-partisan topper."

He took it with him when he served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1956. There, it quickly became the "Belle of the Ball" and was passed from person to person who wanted to try it on. It came to rest on the heads of some of the most distinguished persons of American society.

The other day when John Fitzgerald Kennedy became the 35th President of the United States, Mrs. Lucas, in a sentimental mood, dug out the old hat and placed it on the arm of a sofa in the living room of the family's home at Coldwater lake beside an invitation to the ceremonies in Washington. Then she sat down to watch the impressive rites by television.



We'll let Mrs. Lucas tell the rest of the story:

"I have often thought how fantastic it would be," she says, "if a bit of the intelligence in each of the minds of these fine gentlemen could have rubbed off onto the hat and it in turn could transfer this knowledge to some one individual, or what if it could talk!"

"But I put such flights of fancy from my mind as I watched Mr. Kennedy repeating the oath to Justice Warren that made him responsible to, and for each one of us, and I wished that from wherever he may be, President Lincoln could lay his hand on the shoulder of this young man and bless him with patience, kindness, wisdom and courage to face up to what the future will bring."

"It was with some regret we decided against honoring the invitation (to attend the inauguration in person), but we are most anxious to visit our legislators when they are really down to business. And as I saw the fine snow being whipped across Pennsylvania — I was very glad to be in the comfortable warm security of our home."

"Yes, Frank's old hat and I had quite a day for ourselves. For example, as one of those who tried it on at Chicago — a man also named Abraham, (Governor Ribicoff) — was introduced to the world as a member of our new President's cabinet, I wondered if (figuratively speaking) the old top hat cut another notch in its brim!"

Inspection of the historic headpiece reveals that sewn inside is the label of L. D. Halsted, one of Coldwater's pioneer merchants.

Halsted, a native of New York state, made the long overland journey to Branch county by following the route of the old Erie canal. Only 16 at the time, he made the last stage of the journey, from Detroit to Coldwater, seated upon a barrel of salt.

Coldwater had but 17 houses when Halsted rode into the village in 1836. Having learned the tailoring trade in New York state, he opened a tailor's shop here. At time of his arrival, his entire capital consisted of one dollar, a dozen needles, thread and a thimble.

Later, he expanded his business by adding a line of ready-made clothing and during the latter part of his business career, Mr. Halsted was engaged in the manufacture of cigars — once a flourishing Coldwater industry. He died in 1906.

What George Wore and Sally Didn't ABRAHAM LINCOLN




1/6 →

Lincoln Deathbed and Lincoln Top Hat

Abraham Lincoln's personal effects are highly sought by museums and private collectors. The day after John Wilkes Booth shot him, Lincoln died in this bed (left, CHS) This silk and beaver top hat was owned by Dr. Samuel Long of Springfield, Illinois, who loaned it to Lincoln to wear during the inauguration ceremonies in 1861. (CHS, 1920.379)

WORLD'S FAIRS	ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN	ABRAHAM LINCOLN	THE CIVIL WAR	COSTUMES
GANGLAND CHICAGO	SPORTS	MUSIC	EARLY CHICAGO	GRAB BAG

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Chicago History, Spring 1996, Volume XXV, Number 1
Abraham Lincoln and the Chicago Historical Society
by Russell Lewis



Chicago Historical Society



The silk and beaver top hat was owned by Dr. Samuel Long of Springfield, Illinois, who loaned it to Abraham Lincoln to wear during his inauguration ceremonies in 1861. Decorative and Industrial Arts Collection.

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Head over heels for Lincoln's hat

HISTORY FOR SALE | 'People would go crazy for something like that'

April 11, 2007

BY DAVE MCKINNEY Sun-Times Springfield Bureau Chief dmckinney@suntimes.com

SPRINGFIELD -- The state is trying to acquire a significant private collection of Abraham Lincoln artifacts whose centerpiece is an iconic stovepipe hat worn by the 16th president and valued by one expert at \$5 million.

Talks are ongoing with renowned Lincoln collector Louise Taper on a deal that potentially could greatly expand the number of precious showpieces on display at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.

» [Click to enlarge image](#)



Abraham Lincoln's trademark beaver felt stove-pipe hat, left, and Lincoln wearing the hat during a visit to an army camp during the Civil War.

(Huntington Library/AP/Library of Congress)

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- President used it as desk, safe, bag
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BIG BUCKS FOR FAMOUS HATS

\$350,000: 2003 price for hat of cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman.

\$130,000: 2005 price for Napoleon's beaver-skin bicorn hat.

\$86,250: 2007 price for cowboy hat owned by John Wayne.

\$43,000: 1988 price for hat owned by Winston Churchill.

\$35,000: 1997 price paid by major leaguer David Wells for Babe Ruth's hat.

\$20,315: 2006 price for fedora worn by Al Pacino in "The Godfather."

Negotiating with collector

"She has one of the largest private collections and certainly something we've been eyeing for some time," said Jill Burwitz, a museum spokeswoman. "But with any negotiation, this is all very sensitive. This could be derailed at any moment or could bring the attention of another buyer with deeper pockets than the state."

Besides the hat, Taper has obtained scores of Lincoln-related artifacts, including the blood-stained gloves and handkerchief he carried at Ford's Theatre the night he was assassinated. Taper also owns numerous letters written by Lincoln's killer, John Wilkes Booth; a White House chamber pot; a clock from Lincoln's Springfield law office, and furniture built by Lincoln's father.

"The Taper collection is without equal in terms of Lincolniana still in private hands," said Richard Norton Smith, former director of the Lincoln library and museum and now on the faculty at George Mason University. "It certainly would overnight, I suspect, double the number of artifacts that are on display in the current museum."

The stovepipe hat, which was worn by Lincoln during the Civil War, was on loan to the Lincoln library and museum when it opened in 2005 and has been exhibited at the Chicago Historical Society, now known as the Chicago History Museum.

Its value could be \$1 million to \$8 million. The Chicago museum's longtime chief historian, Russell Lewis guesses it could fetch \$5 million at auction. "It's so emblematic of Lincoln," he said. "People would go crazy for something like that."

Taper has deep ties to Lincoln groups in Illinois and has maintained a long friendship with the state's historian, Thomas F. Schwartz. She serves on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Foundation board.

Taper, who lives in Beverly Hills, Calif., has amassed Lincoln artifacts for about 30 years. Her interest in Lincoln was spurred when she read to her children a book about Lincoln's marriage.

Museum foundation could help

In a 1999 essay for American Heritage magazine, Taper said she began collecting artifacts after landing a job with a manuscript dealer in Beverly Hills who paid her with valuable documents. From there, she was hired to work on a television production of Carl Sandburg's Lincoln biography and was involved in tracking down historical details. Taper did not return calls.

It is not known how the state would pay for the artifacts, though the Lincoln foundation could be a financing partner. The foundation has raised millions of dollars for the Lincoln library and museum. State bond proceeds also could be used.

"We're not there, and we have no deal. I can't tell you anything," said Susan Mogerman, the foundation's chief operating officer.

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President used it as desk, safe, traveling bag

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April 11, 2007

BY **NEIL STEINBERG** Columnist/nsteinberg@suntimes.com

Back in the day when everyone wore hats, it was thought that a little bit of a man's personality, maybe even something of his soul, somehow seeped into his hat. And Abraham Lincoln was a particularly vigorous hat wearer. Like the backwoods lawyer he once was, Lincoln used his seven-inch-tall stovepipe hat as a combination desk, safe and traveling bag.

"My hat, where I carry most all my packages," he wrote in a letter in 1849. Law partner William Herndon reported that if Lincoln had an idea, he would immediately jot it down "on a small slip of paper and put it in his hat, where he carried quite all his plunder, checkbook for the bank account, letters answered and unanswered, handkerchief, etc."

Lincoln was constantly challenged with the necessity of finding a place for his hat. Even when, as president, he stepped up to deliver his first inaugural address, Lincoln was puzzled as to where to park his hat while he spoke. His opponent in the recent election, Sen. Stephen Douglas, held it. Later, Douglas poignantly quipped, "Well, if I can't be president, at least I can hold the president's hat."

Like any man of his era, Lincoln had more than one hat -- as president he constantly received new hats from well-wishers. The Smithsonian, which has the top hat Lincoln wore on the night he was assassinated, describes it as one of the institution's most treasured icons.

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Lincoln's stovepipe hat, other artifacts may return to Springfield

By DANA HEUPEL
STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

Published Thursday, April 12, 2007

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is negotiating to obtain artifacts related to the 16th president from a large private collection that includes one of his signature stovepipe hats.

"Talks have been ongoing for years" with California resident Louise Taper, Jill Burwitz, spokeswoman for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, said Wednesday.

Taper has served on the museum foundation's board and is involved in other Lincoln organizations, such as the commission planning the national observance of the bicentennial of his birth.

"We've been eyeing her collection for a number of years, and I think there's always been a discussion of possibly acquiring some of it," Burwitz said. "As of now, there's no deal."

Over the years, Taper and her husband, Barry, have amassed a trove of Lincoln treasures, including numerous papers, pieces of his jacket and blood-stained shirt and gloves, and portions of Mary Lincoln's dress and fan from Ford's Theater, as well as items related to Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth. Many of those were exhibited on loan to the museum when it opened two years ago.

The most-recognized prize in the collection is one of Lincoln's stovepipe hats. He reportedly would joke that he used his elongated top hat as his office to store papers and other items he acquired or needed throughout the day.

"There are a couple of others out there that are known to be his," said Daniel Weinberg of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago, which buys and sells Lincoln artifacts. "But certainly that is one of the best known and preserved, and it would reverberate with people greatly."

Weinberg was reluctant to place a price on the hat, but said, "If I had to do an estimate, I suppose that it certainly could go above a million, and how far above that depends on the timing."

Burwitz said she didn't know how any purchase would be financed, or whether the collection or portions of it would be a gift to the museum.

"I'm guessing the state would have little or no involvement in it, considering the price tag that could be associated with her collection," she said.

"It's hard to say. I don't know what the state would be willing to put

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toward it. The foundation is certainly an option, but all that remains to be seen.”

Weinberg said the cost of the artifacts could rise if the state got into a bidding war with private collectors.

“There could be people who would approach her now that it’s out,” he said. “There are collectors out there with real money and interest who might like to pick off things.”

The talks were first reported in the Chicago Sun-Times on Wednesday.

Acquiring artifacts from the Tapers “would certainly deepen and broaden” the state’s Lincoln collection, Weinberg said.

“They would have more of a depth to rotate material to show it,” he said, “because museumship has changed to the point where you can’t show everything because of the ill effects of light. This would allow them to rotate many more things.”

Louise Taper could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Susan Mogerman, chief operating officer of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, said, “We’re not at a place where we can talk.”

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Lincoln Library Acquires Significant Collection Of Lincoln Artifacts

Jun 26th, 2007



Original beaver fur stove pipe hat belonging to Lincoln. Brim shows finger mark wears in the fur where he would have held the brim to "tip his hat."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.: The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has acquired the Taper collection of more than 1,500 artifacts, manuscripts and artworks that span Lincoln's entire life and provide insight into the forces that shaped the man who helped shape the American nation. The collection is celebrated for its holdings, which shed light on Lincoln's dramatic personal life and his relationships with his wife and children, friends, colleagues and even his enemies and detractors.

The newly acquired objects will be seen in museum exhibits beginning July 3, with a small exhibition of items in the museum's galleries. The Lincoln Library and Museum is also working to develop traveling exhibitions featuring key documents from the Taper collection. The Treasures Gallery, a designated exhibition

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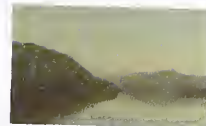
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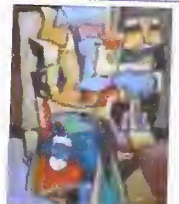
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space within the museum, will be renamed later this year in honor of Louise Taper.

The acquisition of this unique collection has been made possible through purchase by the Lincoln Library and Museum and a generous gift from the Taper family. The acquisition greatly enhances the museum's outstanding and far-ranging collection of documents and artifacts, and advances its position as the foremost center for the study of Lincoln's life, times and enduring relevance.

Among the highlights of the Taper collection are Lincoln's iconic stovepipe hat; the bloodstained gloves and handkerchief Lincoln carried on the night of his death; a vast number of artifacts, personal effects and unpublished correspondence belonging to Mary Todd Lincoln; and an 1824 Sum Book page, which contains the first known sample of Lincoln's writing.



Wax seal used by Abraham Lincoln during his presidency.

The Taper collection also includes extensive holdings relating to the Booth family, including assassin John Wilkes Booth and his brothers, Junius Brutus Booth Jr and Edwin Booth — who ironically saved the life of Lincoln's son, Robert, two years before Lincoln's assassination. These artifacts offer a multifaceted portrait of the Booths, the first theatrical family in US history, and go beyond the terrible act committed by John Wilkes Booth to show a family torn apart by the Civil War, like so many others.

The acquisition comes during a period of growing national fascination with Lincoln, one of the most beloved and most misunderstood figures in American history. Unlike other major collections of Lincoln artifacts, objects in the Taper collection were acquired based not only on their use for scholars but on their emotional and intellectual value, providing new insight into Lincoln's rise from poverty, his relationship with his wife and his despair over the death of two of his children.

Comprising an extraordinary number of high-quality artifacts and documents, the Taper collection is unparalleled in its breadth among all private Lincoln collections. The collection was carefully

built by Louise Taper, who first began to collect Lincoln artifacts after being deeply moved by a biographical novel about the marriage of the 16th president.



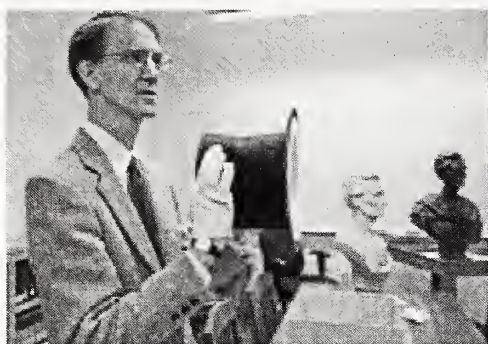
Leather gloves worn by Lincoln to Ford's Theater on the night of his assassination. Blood stains are visible at the cuffs.

Fascinated by Lincoln, "the human being, the family man," she took a part-time job with a manuscript dealer in Los Angeles, forgoing a salary in exchange for payment in historical documents. After a year, she had earned her first piece — a message written to Lincoln during the Civil War, with the president's signature at bottom. She has worked persistently since to acquire objects that not only documented Lincoln's presidential career, but which shed new light on his personal life, on his relationships with those closest to him and on the unique circumstances of life during the Civil War.

Her interest in Lincoln was furthered by her 1985 marriage to Barry Taper, a member of the prominent Los Angeles Taper family and son of philanthropist S. Mark Taper. The resulting collection, which reflects Taper's passionate investment in Lincoln's history, includes the largest known (after the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum collection) assortment of correspondence belonging to Mary Todd Lincoln, as well as the most extensive archive of materials from the Booth family. In addition to its value in scholarly study, the collection provides the most personal and nuanced portrait to date of Lincoln's rich and varied life.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum is at 212 North Sixth Street. For information, 217-558-8844 or www.alplm.org.

Antiques and the Arts Editorial Content



James M.
Cornelius,
curator of the
Lincoln
Collection at
the Abraham
Lincoln
Presidential
Library and
Museum in
Springfield,
shows the
Abraham
Lincoln hat in
the museum's
collection. |
Rich Hein~Sun
-Times

Article Extras



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Updated, April 15, 2012 9:22AM

SPRINGFIELD — It bears the floral stamp of an 1850s-era Springfield hatmaker. It remained in the possession of the same southern Illinois family for a century. And it fits a head about 22 inches in circumference — the same as Abraham Lincoln's hat size.

But did this iconic, beaver-fur stovepipe hat really once have a place atop the head of Honest Abe?

For the first time, the people who run the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield — who have long proclaimed the hat was Lincoln's and continue to insist that — are admitting they can't pin down how, more than 150 years ago, a farmer acquired the stovepipe hat.

That missing detail has injected an unexpected air of doubt about the authenticity of one of the museum's prized showpieces, a historic icon valued at \$6.5 million that's a cornerstone in the museum's fund-raising pitches and that, until now, has had a provenance once thought to be indisputable.

"In a court of law, there are different levels of assurance," said James Cornelius, curator of the museum's Lincoln Collection. "The Scottish legal system has guilty, not guilty and not proven. We elected in this country not to take that third option, in which the presumption of guilt is kind of heavy. I guess, if you want to be pushy about the hat question, you'd have to judge it in the not-proven category of Scottish law because it cannot be proven or disproven."

That acknowledgment, in response to inquiries from the Chicago Sun-Times, follows the February disclosure that a portrait of Mary Todd Lincoln donated to the state by the Lincoln family, which has hung in the Executive Mansion for decades, was a fraud.

No one is claiming the hat is a fake. It remained in the possession of the family of farmer William Waller until 1958. That's when James Hickey, then head of the Illinois State Historical Library and overseer of the state's Lincoln artifacts, bought it for himself in a move that today would almost assuredly spark conflict-of-interest questions.

The hat changed hands again in 1990, when Lincoln collector Louise Taper bought it from Hickey for an undisclosed price. She, in turn, parted with it in 2007, selling it to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation as part of a \$23 million haul of Lincoln memorabilia in 2007. The purchase was proclaimed a coup for the museum.

The museum won't say how much the hat cost but, for the first time, it has produced a 2007 appraisal valuing it at \$6.5 million.

The foundation is raising money to repay the city of Springfield, which issued taxpayer-financed bonds used to buy the Taper collection.

The hat has been described alternately as one Lincoln wore during the Civil War and, more recently, one that he gave away after an 1858 debate in southern Illinois with Stephen Douglas.

If one of those scenarios is true, the other can't be. But that doesn't mean the hat is a fraud, said Wes Cowan, co-host of the PBS-TV show "History Detectives" and an expert in historical artifacts who owns a Cincinnati auction house.

"The fact that there is this longstanding tradition and that it clearly came from a hatmaker in Springfield — that's interesting. But, beyond that, it gets squishy. What you really want to see was a newspaper article from . . . whenever the debate was: 'Candidate Lincoln gives local farmer his beaver top hat.' That's what you want to find. That's the sort of chain of custody you want. Without that unbroken chain of custody, it becomes very difficult to prove any of this. It may be. It may not be."

The story of the hat was first written in August 1958, when Carbondale resident Clara Waller signed an affidavit in which she said her father-in-law, William Waller, obtained the hat from Lincoln "during the Civil War in Washington" and, upon Waller's death, it was passed on to her husband, Elbert Waller. William Waller had been a Democrat in the 1850s but incurred his neighbors' wrath by bucking the region's pro-slavery mind-set by backing Lincoln, a Republican, in his 1858 U.S. Senate bid against Democrat Stephen Douglas, according to Cornelius.

Attached to Clara Waller's affidavit is a handwritten statement from the late John W. Allen, a history professor at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, who said he had been told the "same" story about the hat by Elbert Waller and was "inclined to give it full credence."

The hat was sent on loan for a large Illinois State Historical Library exhibit in Taiwan in 1988. It later appeared in 1993 and 1994 in San Marino, Calif., and in Chicago during a high-profile tour of major Lincoln artifacts known as "The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America." The hat was described in a catalog co-authored by former Illinois state historian Thomas Schwartz as one that Lincoln "wore . . . during the Civil War."

But that claim — and Clara Waller's story — has a big hole: No evidence has been unearthed that places William Waller in Washington, D.C., after Lincoln was elected president. And Lincoln never returned to Illinois before he was assassinated.

Cornelius, who has been in his post since 2007, said he was told by Schwartz before he moved on to head the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library that William Waller instead must have gotten the hat from Lincoln during his Sept. 15, 1858, debate with Douglas in Downstate Jonesboro.

Schwartz declined an interview request, referring questions to the Lincoln museum.

"I guess you'd say we've taken something of a historic liberty in re-dating it to a much more plausible time and place," Cornelius said of the hat. But that contradicts the Waller affidavit — which had never been made public until a Chicago Sun-Times reporter asked to see it.

Lincoln, who did give gifts to friends and admirers, wasn't known to have given away any of his hats, Cornelius said. There also are no newspaper stories from the 1858 debate, photographs or letters between Lincoln and William Waller to corroborate the hat changing hands that day in southern Illinois.

"What does he do for a hat in [September] when he gives away a hat? That's my only problem with the story — the logic part," said Harold Holzer, a Lincoln expert who is a senior vice president at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

Still, Holzer thinks there is a "strong likelihood" the hat belonged to Lincoln, based on the hat size and its tie to the Springfield hatmaker, where Lincoln was known to buy hats. But Holzer said the museum should redouble its efforts to pin down the hat's origin.

Further evidence that validates the hat is that it was held in the same family for a century and scooped up by Hickey and later Taper, two of the pre-eminent collectors of Lincoln memorabilia, Cornelius said.

"Not only did the Waller family believe it and have it, Louise Taper believed it and had it after Jim Hickey believed it and had it," he said.

"There's nothing to indicate to us that it's not what we've inherited."

Cowan, the PBS host, doesn't think the Lincoln museum was duped, but he encourages it to present both scenarios when the hat is next exhibited. When displayed previously at the museum, it has been linked to William Waller, but the uncertainty over how Waller got it has been sidestepped.

"I think the issue that I would bring up over and over and over again is that there is no unbroken chain of custody, that the facts as they are known surrounding the top hat are compelling, but, ultimately, they can never be proven," Cowan said.

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30th Street Station in New York 3 P.M. has hair smoothed and receives kiss from Mrs. Lincoln before leaving car. N.Y. Times, Feb. 20; *Monaghan*, Feb. 21. Presidential party occupies 11 carriages in procession to Astor House. Estimated 250,000 people watch; "crowd not as large as usual" on such an occasion. Lincoln rides in open carriage with Chairman Charles G. Cornell, city alderman, Col. Edwin V. Sumner, military aide in Lincoln party, and Judge David Davis, old Illinois friend and member of presidential party, and waves to crowd. No band or military company in procession. *Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 20, 21. Acknowledges welcome of crowd at Astor House with few remarks at 4 P.M. Addresses crowd later: "I have kept silence for the reason that I supposed it was peculiarly proper that I should do so until the time came when, according to the customs of the country, I should speak officially." Dines with family. *Ibid.*, Feb. 21; *CW*, IV, 230-31. Receives Republican electors of city headed by William Cullen Bryant, editor, New York "Evening Post," about 8 P.M. at hotel, followed by Kings County, N.Y., delegation and several Republican clubs. N.Y. *World*, Feb. 20. Wives of politicians hold reception for Mrs. Lincoln. *Monaghan*, Feb. 20. Lincoln thanks Brooklyn Common Council for invitation, but engagements will not permit visit. Promises people of Newark, N.J., that he will bow from train. *CW*, IV, 231-32.

FEBRUARY 20. *New York City*. Accompanied by Thurlow Weed, N. B. Judd, James W. Webb, editor, "Morning Courier and New York Enquirer," and Gov. William Sprague (R.I.), Lincoln leaves Astor House at 8:30 A.M. to breakfast with selected group of merchants at home of former Cong. Moses H. Grinnell (N.Y.), New York merchant. N.Y. *World*, Feb. 21; N.Y. *Times*, Feb. 21; N.Y. *Herald*, Feb. 21. Returns to hotel at 10:30 A.M. and meets Joshua Dewey, aged 94, who has voted at every presidential election since George Washington's. N.Y. *Times*, Feb. 21. Committee from common council headed by Alderman Cornell escorts Lincoln to City Hall at 11 A.M. to meet Mayor Fernando Wood and council. Replying to Wood's speech, Lincoln says: "There is nothing that can ever bring me willingly to consent to the destruction of this Union, under which . . . the whole country has acquired its greatness, unless it were to be that thing for which the Union itself was made." *Ibid.*; *CW*, IV, 232-33. Remains for public reception; "motley crowd poured in"; shakes hands with 30 veterans of War of 1812; makes brief remarks from balcony of City Hall; and returns to hotel shortly after 1 P.M. N.Y. *Times*, Feb. 21; *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Feb. 20; N.Y. *Herald*, Feb. 21. In afternoon receives number of friends privately. N.Y. *Times*, Feb. 21. Showman P. T. Barnum invites him to museum, but he does not go; Mrs. Lincoln and children accept. Meets former Gov. Hamilton Fish (N.Y.). *Receives hats from both Knox and Leary, New York hatters; when asked their relative value, comments, "They mutually surpassed each other."* N.Y. *World*, Feb. 21. Vice President-elect Hamlin arrives in New York and dines with Lincoln family in its hotel rooms. *Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 22. Lincoln, Judge Davis, and Alderman Cornell arrive late at Academy of

Music for performance of Verdi's new opera "Un Ballo in Maschera." N.Y. *World*, Feb. 21; N.Y. *Times*, Feb. 21. Lincoln wears black gloves and shocks city's elite. *Monaghan*, 31. After first act takes two bows in response to applause. Audience and cast sing "The Star Spangled Banner." Lincoln returns to hotel after second act. N.Y. *World*, Feb. 21. Hamlin speaks from window of ladies' parlor. Presidential party serenaded by German quartette from Hoboken and by National Guard band. N.Y. *Times*, Feb. 21. [Irwin withdraws \$7 from Springfield Marine Bank. *H.E. Pratt*, 176.] Mrs. Lincoln holds reception at Astor House 8:30 to 10 P.M. N.Y. *Times*, Feb. 21.

FEBRUARY 21. *New York City and en route to Philadelphia*. Lincoln departs from New York via Cortlandt Street ferry at 8 A.M. escorted by cheering crowd and salvos of artillery. *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Feb. 22; *Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 22. At Jersey City, N.J., replies briefly to welcome by William L. Dayton, attorney general of New Jersey. To quiet the crowd, speaks a second time. *CW*, IV, 233-34. At Newark, N.J., Lincoln dines at "lower depot" and rides one and a half miles in open carriage through town to "upper depot." At each depot is introduced and makes short speech. One estimate reports crowd at 75,000, lower estimate is 25,000. Mount Holly *New-Jersey Mirror and Burlington County Advertiser*, Feb. 28; *CW*, IV, 234-35. Replies from rear platform to introduction by J. J. Chetwood at Elizabeth, N.J. Rahway, N.J., crowd of 3,000 sees Lincoln for moment. N.Y. *World*, Feb. 22. Judge John Van Dyke introduces him from train to 5,000 spectators at New Brunswick, N.J.; Lincoln replies. *CW*, IV, 235; *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Feb. 28. Thirty-four-gun national salute at 12 M. signifies arrival of presidential party at Trenton, N.J. Mayor Mills welcomes Lincoln, who replies and joins W. L. Dayton in open carriage for trip to capitol. *Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 23. Lincoln addresses New Jersey Senate: "In my childhood, . . . I got hold of a small book, . . . 'Weem's Life of Washington.' I remember all the accounts there given of the battle fields and struggles for the liberties of the country, and none fixed themselves upon my imagination so deeply as the struggle here at Trenton, . . . I am exceedingly anxious that . . . this Union, the Constitution, and the liberties of the people shall be perpetuated in accordance with the original idea for which that struggle was made." *CW*, IV, 235-36. To General Assembly he says: "I shall do all that may be in my power to promote a peaceful settlement of our difficulties. The man does not live who is more devoted to peace than I am. None who would do more to preserve it. But it may be necessary to put the foot down firmly." *Ibid.*, 236-37. Goes to Trenton House for lunch; by popular demand makes few remarks from balcony. *Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 23; *CW*, IV, 237-38. Leaves Trenton shortly after 2 P.M. Speaks briefly from train at Bristol, Pa. Trenton *Daily State Gazette and Republican*, Feb. 23. Arrives Kensington depot Philadelphia at 4 P.M. Receives 34-gun salute by Minute Men of '76 and rides in carriage to Continental Hotel while 100,000 persons watch. *Baltimore Sun*, Feb. 22, 23. Speaks from balcony of hotel in reply to wel-

LINCOLN TREASURES

Back in the days of Abraham Lincoln, the very tall, stove-pipe hats were worn not just on special occasions, but for everyday use as well. Lincoln's tall stove-pipe hat was his favorite "office" which he kept filled with notes, and countless memo-



randa, and even letters. Whenever Mr. Lincoln thought of a telling sentence for a speech, or a vital point in the defense of a client, he would doff his hat, reach inside for a pencil and a scrap of paper and make the important note. Then he'd tuck them all back in the hat, put the hat back on his head, and go serenely about his business.

Writing a letter to a Richard S. Thomas in 1850, he said, "I am ashamed of not sooner answering your letter. When I received the letter, I put it in my old hat, and buying a new one the next day, the old was set aside, and so the letter was lost sight of for a time."

